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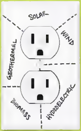
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When *Will* We Go Green? Some Bay Area communities are forming public-power networks to buy renewable energy, but some East Bay cities have been slow to join the green revolution. Is that about to change? **pg. 10**

Float O[illegible]

Art Murmur June Preview [illegible] pg. [illegible]

Kickstarter in Motion Why there's good cause [illegible]. **pg. 54**

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Co-Editors Robert Gammon, Kathleen Richards
Music Editor/Staff Writer Rachel Swan
Staff Writer/Web Editor Ellen Cushing
Arts Editor/Page Designer Nate Seltenrich
Calendar Editor Caitlin Harwood
Chain Editor W.T. Butler
Contributors J. Douglas Allen-Taylor, Claudia Bauer, Darwin BondGraham, David Downs, Chris Duffey, Nathan Fitch, Paul Gackle, John Geluardi, Lee Hildebrand, Obi Kaufmann, Mark Keresman, Alfrey Kielman, Stephen Loewinsohn, Alison Peters, M.T. Richards, Anneli Rufus, Sandor Tavares, Joan Teppermann, Luke Tsai, Kelly Vance, Jill Wasson

Art & Production
Production Manager Nicholas Wong
Art Director Brian Kelly
Graphic Designer Elaine Shaw

Circulation
Circulation Manager Jalik Murphy
Couriers Bruce Akkoub, Travis Fowell, Gary Jay, Thomas Kennedy, Devlin Quaine, Jr., Dante Zaldi

Business
Publisher Jody Colley
Operations and Events Manager Mollie Cohen-Rosenthal
Systems Managers James Nicholson
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Advertising
Sales & Marketing Director Terry Furry
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NEWS & OPINION

PIRATE RADIO GOES LEGIT

LETTERS

YAY!men

Thank you Phil Busse and the *Express*.

Best always and rock on! to Free Radio Berkeley 104.1, in its work locally and around the globe!

Of course, it is a zenith (abyss?) of irony to have deregulated, eliminated, sold-out and sold-off "public interest programming" requirements on behalf of commercial broadcasters, and then attempt to re-balance the dial (YAYmen) with low-powered frequency modulation stations after paving radio paradise the first time round.

Several Bay Area LPFM "pirates" have come and gone and come again. The Mission's Radio Equis, SF Liberation Radio, Pirate Cat — all part of an indomitable urge to free music, information, and inspiration like so many effulgent community sound gardens (although some hours/DJs/tastes may tip toward the dark, subterranean funky ... fecund all the same). In SF today one can tune into KKCF 90.9 streaming (CCSF.edu/KKCF) and Radio Valencia 87.9 is swinging away at RadioValencia.fm.

I also must call readers' attention to some pretty cool Class D/educational radio stations operating today on the Bay Rim and offering inspired multicultural programming, local public service, and educational opportunities for high school-aged youth: 88.1 KSRH at San Rafael High (eclectic) and 88.1 El Cerrito KECG/97.7 San Pablo at El Cerrito High School where I volunteered and/or been a classroom educator for nearly eighteen years subsequent to the traumatic ruin/loss of KJAZ, the iconoclastic live radio jazz temple that is/was.

KECG was created by tech and media teachers, against all kinds of odds and tides. KECG currently features global/local programming, interviews, and student-generated live programs throughout the academic year (weekdays from 10 a.m.-noon) with the support of Contra Costa County Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Here's to all public-spirited media. RESPECT! to all indie Bay Rim Public Radio stations keepin it lit: KPOO 89.5, KPFA 94.1, KALX 90.7, KCSM 91.1, NPR affiliates KALW 91.7, KQED 88.5, and special RADIOXO for 90.3 KUSF currently "in exile."

Listeners and readers: Thoughtfully crafted and curated radio can function like a vital organ to help keep us socially, psychologically, and metaphysically fit. Take your pick and send one your love letters, and donations.

Corey Moore
Educator/Broadcaster
worldOneradio+festival on 88.1 KECG 97.7

Bonta's the Proven Progressive

I have trouble understanding the characterization of Abel Guillen as the "more progressive" candidate than Rob Bonta. Bonta has been dual-endorsed by many of the same organizations that Guillen claims support from, including the California League of Conservation Voters and SEIU. Bonta has by far the most endorsements from organized labor and also the most Democratic Club endorsements of any candidate for Assembly District 18. Lastly, Bonta is exclusively endorsed by the United Farm Workers, one of the most progressive endorsements in the race. It seems that Bonta is the more consistent and proven progressive candidate.

James Reyes, Castro Valley

Prop 13 Is the Problem

Apart from the genuine need for community college funds, a $48 parcel tax is really unfair to low-income property owners, of which there are many. Let's take on the big dog, Prop 13, and modify it.

Kurt Schoeneman, Boonville

Flanagan for Judge

I was quite surprised [to see your endorsement of Andrew Wiener], as I know that my friend and candidate for Superior Court Judge Tara Flanagan was not contacted for an endorsement interview by the *Express*.

First, Tara Flanagan is the most experienced candidate, having served for six years as a temporary judge here in Alameda County, and as an attorney handling criminal, civil, and family law matters. That is one reason why she has such solid support in the legal and judicial community.

Next, I still think that diversity matters. About 30 percent of our county's judges are women, and I am the only out lesbian judge in Alameda County. Tara will bring needed diversity to our bench. That is one reason that groups like Women Lawyers of Alameda County, the National Women's Political Caucus – Alameda North, Black Women Organized for Political Action, and the Latino Connection, PAC have endorsed Tara Flanagan.

Finally when you endorsed me two years ago (May 26 2010) you wrote that "[w]e think it's time that a county judge reflect the progressive views of most voters." I believe that is still important today. That is why I was joined by the Democratic Party the Green Party, the Sierra Club, SEIU Local 1021, AFSCME Local Council 57 and dozens of progressive lawyers in endorsing the most experienced and qualified candidate, Tara Flanagan.

Victoria S. Kolakowski
Superior Court Judge County of Alameda

The Editors Respond

As a point of clarification. We did not conduct endorsement interviews with any candidate for office in the June 5 election

Cessation Over Cancer Research

Full disclosure: I've been smoking cigarettes for over thirty years. That being said, I'd planned on voting yes on 29 until reading it and seeing that only 20 percent of funds raised would go toward cessation and prevention, and 60 percent toward *more cancer research*. It's well known that smoking causes cancer. We need more help quitting, and this tax, as written doesn't do nearly enough.

Christopher Papanoglou, Hayward

Re: [illegible] of Fake Meat, Food, 5/16

Critic-in-Chief?

I HAVE TO EAT HERE.

Thanks for being so awesome/open minded about all kinds of food. I really look forward to hearing about the next great veg find! Plus you're so fun to read love your reviews! Luke for president! (I think those are the qualifications you need to become president.)

Laura Beck Berkeley

An Oakland Eater

I love Luke Tsai's reviews! I live in and love downtown Oakland. I've been here almost ten years and it gets better all the time in spite of the Occupy-related problems. I work in the City but spend as much of my money in my town Oaktown and encourage all my fellow Oaklanders to do the same.

Kenzo Hishida Oakland

[illegible]

Teaching by Example

I think you are on to something here. If American capitalism has morphed into a zero-sum game where Americans think only the strongest will survive and there is no regard for our collective well being, how else can we expect kids to behave?

Lisa Lindsley Washington DC

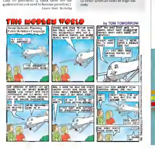
Corrections

We failed to credit the photographer whose work appeared alongside our May 16 music story "Can't Stop Won't Stop Chippy Nonstop." It's Arturo Torres.

In our May 23 Legalization Nation column we mistakenly referred to Congressman Dana Rohrabacher as a Democrat. He's a Republican. ●

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
Drone Industry Planning Public Relations Campaign
HEY KIDS! IT'S ME, DRONEY
—THE FRIENDLY SURVEILLANCE DRONE!
DRONES HAVE BEEN GETTING SOME BAD PRESS LATELY. I TELL YA, YOU ACCIDENTALLY WIPE OUT A FEW WEDDING PARTIES AND SOME PEOPLE WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT!
BUT YOU KIDS DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT! DOMESTIC DRONES AREN'T EVEN HAVE ANY WEAPONS!
EXCEPT MAY BE IN SOME CASES
LIKE, IF WE'RE AFTER A REALLY BAD GUY
SO STAY AWAY FROM WEDDING PARTIES JUST IN CASE
AND SPEAKING OF SAFETY LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT DRONES ALMOST NEVER LOSE CONTACT WITH THEIR CONTROLLERS AND FLY WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL BEFORE CRASHING INTO THE GROUND SOMEWHERE.
YOU SHOULD BE RELATIVELY SAFE
WE'RE REASONABLY SURE OF IT
NOW, I KNOW THE ACLU AND OTHER CIVIC GROUPS HAVE RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT PRIVACY AND YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY ABOUT THAT?
UH—NO. WHAT?
I SAY IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG
—YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE FROM DRONEY
SAY YOU KIDS AREN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG, ARE YOU?
ER UH NO
GREAT! WELL, I'VE GOT TO RUN, BUT I'LL BE SEEING YOU!
FROM ABOUT 6,000 FEET
THE ROBOT DEATH PLANE SCARES ME.
I HEARD THAT

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RAISING THE BAR

ROMNEY'S BAIN CAPITAL IS A JOB-KILLER

But the important truths lie below the surface of the political debate

By Jay Youngdahl

Democratic critics are right to expose the job-killing activity of private-equity firm Bain Capital, formerly run by Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. But if critics wish to do anything other than make a quickly forgotten partisan point in the 2012 election siege fight, they need to come clean about the "rest of the story," as radio commentator Paul Harvey used to say.

First, what is private equity? Put simply, it's a way to finance economic activity outside of traditional stock and bond markets. As the term is normally used, private equity includes several very different types of investments. First among them is venture capital, the raising of money for new commercial ideas and companies. Facebook and Zynga were nurtured with venture capital. Proponents of private equity like to emphasize venture capital, the epicenter of which is the Bay Area, from which many successful companies have emerged. Second, private equity is often a way to raise money to purchase large assets, such as buying tracts of land on speculation. Unfortunately, casino-like wagers are common in California, and public employees and employers will pay well into the future for spectacular mistakes made in this area by CalPERS, the country's largest public-employee-benefit fund.

The most contentious type of private equity involves the purchase, and later sale or bankruptcy, of existing companies. The buyouts are mainly financed using debt, taxpayer-provided dollars, and "OPM" — other people's money. This activity, often known by the term "leveraged buyouts," is featured in the campaign ads attacking Romney's Bain Capital. In leveraged buyouts, the private-equity firm claims it can conduct financial alchemy, turning companies into economic dynamos.

Matt Kinshela

Private-equity gurus may have high IQs and spotless academic pedigrees, but they seldom know more than the folks in the company. Consequently, the outcomes are nearly always bad for workers, communities, and taxpayers — as the "efficiencies" come out of the hides of those three groups.

Hedge funds, often thought of as private equity, are really alternative investment vehicles. Hedge-fund managers generally make roulette-like bets against companies, currencies, and countries, thinking they know whether the ball will land on red or black. The results often exacerbate social problems like those in Greece today. These funds are sometimes laughingly renamed "absolute return strategies," as if they could always produce positive returns for investors.

Whatever the proper definition, private equity in practice exists for one reason — it is a gigantic fee machine, siphoning the capital that has been built up in companies and portfolios and transferring it to the private equity moguls and, occasionally, their investors. Private equity is an integral part of the finance outrages that have wreaked havoc in our economies. Except for some venture capitalists, and a smattering of private-equity firms that consider communities and workers first, most private-equity moguls get paid princely sums whether the investments win, lose, or draw. The normal fee is "2 and 20" — 2 percent of the total committed investment each year and 20 percent of any profits. Losses all go to the investors, who hit the private-equity jackpot about as often as convenience store patrons win the Mega Millions jackpot.

To retain its advantages, private-equity money is spread around the political barnyard. All of the political elite is in on the action — Democratic and Republican. Bill Clinton gave the first turbo-charge to the game, welding a large part of the private-equity establishment onto the Democratic Party. Clinton then colluded with luminaries like then-Texas Senator Phil Gramm and his wife Wendy to establish regulatory and tax advantages. President Obama and the leaders of both parties within the Beltway are continuing the bipartisan support. But wait, you say. "Aren't you being too hard on President Obama? Isn't he spotlighting the job-killing activities of Romney's Bain Capital?" Maybe, but in a stunning piece of political theater, as the anti-Bain commercials were beginning to air this month, the president was at the Park Avenue penthouse of a private-equity mogul praising the work of these tycoons and collecting more than $2 million in campaign funds.

Hypocrisy in service to electoral success is so common today that there is little news here. But for progressives, an unpleasant truth was recently revealed by Cory Booker, the mayor of Newark, New Jersey, and a rising star in the Democratic Party. Booker, who, like many Democratic bigwigs, is cozy with private-equity types, questioned the Democratic electoral focus on Bain since the money that the private-equity job-killers use for their efforts comes from pension funds and unions. Say what? Money from pension funds of union workers goes to corporate raiders? Sadly, the answer is yes. In spite of the anti-Bain pronouncements of labor leaders, billions of dollars saved for the health care and pensions of workers are funneled to private-equity moguls. From CalPERS and CalSTRS to pensions for Bay Area grocery store workers and East Coast hospital workers, union representatives sit on boards that are seduced by the lies and blandishments offered by the private equity mafia.

Many in the labor movement know this, but given the right wing attacks on workers' pensions, they are unwilling to come clean so as not to give any ammo to the anti-pension austerity crowd. But if the union movement is concerned about its credibility with the "movable middle," as the dynamic young AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler argues it must be, the union movement needs to stand against hypocrisy, not practice it. Only then can it be relevant and healthy.

Private equity is like dynamite. It may be helpful in some circumstances, but without extraordinary oversight it can hurt people and devastate communities. Investment and finance are essential for a wide range of societal needs, from power generation to health care and retirement. But given the ability that financial activity has to produce large-scale mayhem, private equity should be regulated even more closely than other sectors of the economy.

There is an historical antecedent to look to here. At the turn of the 19th century, our country was in a debate as to what to do about serious accidents that were obviously the fault of those engaged in dangerous activity but for which the victims had no recourse in existing legal and regulatory schemes. In response, the legal rule of "Rylands" — the concept of strict liability borrowed from English law — was eventually adopted throughout the country. Under Rylands, if you are engaged in abnormally dangerous activity, like the handling of dynamite, you are strictly responsible for any adverse consequences, whether or not you were negligent.

So what should be done about private equity if its use is an abnormally dangerous activity? First, the tax and regulatory advantages should be eliminated. There is no reason that taxpayers should promote and finance destructive deals. Second, the government should mandate real disclosure of the monetary gains reaped by private equity moguls, the consequences of their activity, and the true returns that investors receive. Corporate raiders are often successful because they can hide, through dizzying levels of complexity, the real effects of what they do and the real financial returns created. Employee pension funds give their money to those private-equity moguls, not because trustees are stupid or have poor morals, but because they are surrounded by a bought-and-paid-for former army of "researchers" and investment consultants who contend that only private-equity alchemy can produce needed financial returns. All evidence that shows the dazzling promises of "alternative investments" are false, like Simon Lack's devastating critique in his recent book, *The Hedge Fund Mirage*, is derided by industry and ignored by those who should know better.

Finally, those associated with private equity must take personal responsibility. When investments are made that kill jobs and communities, it would not be that hard to set up a system to force those who are responsible to pay for needed unemployment assistance, health care, real job training, and to compensate the communities for lost tax revenues. All involved should personally have to pay for this, from the private-equity experts to the pension fund administrators who hire them and the trustees who approve the job-killing investments. Maybe then all these folks would admit the downstream effects of their actions and focus on investments that create good jobs and build healthy communities. ●

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STRIKE TWO FOR CHIEF MEEHAN

Berkeley's top cop takes another misstep. Plus, the Warriors aren't gone yet, and Oakland has a balanced budget.

By Robert Gammon

At the beginning of this year, it looked as if the decision in 2009 by Berkeley leaders to hire Seattle police Captain **Michael Meehan** as the city's new police chief was a smart move. Meehan was successfully reforming Berkeley's police department, implementing a zero-tolerance policy for police misconduct while slashing costly police overtime. And his get-tough stances with the city's police union represented a refreshing break from the past. But in the past few months, the hiring of Meehan has started to look more like a mistake, as he ensnared himself unnecessarily in two mini-scandals that raise serious questions about his judgment and his priorities as Berkeley's top cop.

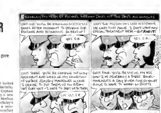
Meehan's troubles began when he dispatched police spokeswoman **Mary Kusmiss** to pay a late-night visit to the home of *Oakland Tribune* reporter **Doug Oakley** to demand a correction to an incorrect story that had been posted to the newspaper's website. It was a dumb move. Although Meehan had every right to want the story corrected, he should have waited until the next business day. He later admitted as much and apologized for his actions, although questions remained as to whether the chief improperly used police resources to find Oakley's home address.

Interim City Manager **Christine Daniel** — Meehan's boss — hired an outside law firm to investigate the chief's actions, but it appears that the inquiry uncovered no serious misconduct, because Meehan seems to have received no major reprimand. Daniel told the website Berkeleyside last week that the probe cost the city $15,000 and that "appropriate action" had already been taken against the chief.

Then came the news that earlier this year Berkeley police had dispatched ten cops to search for Meehan's son's stolen iPhone. The move represented another waste of city resources, and smacked of special treatment for the chief. Meehan later insisted that the sergeant in command made the decision to send the officers after the phone, not him, and that such moves were relatively routine.

But that seems like a pretty weak response from the chief. First, the sergeant-in-charge had to be influenced by the fact that the stolen phone belonged to his boss' son. Second, if Berkeley police really do regularly dispatch ten cops, including some on overtime, to search for stolen phones that have tracking software, then the department's priorities are screwed up.

As such, we view the iPhone incident as a second strike against Meehan. In fact, if it weren't for the fact that he's done a good job overall as police chief, particularly by standing up to the police union, we might be inclined to say that it's time for Berkeley to get a new chief. But we're not quite ready to say that — at least not yet.


BERKELEY POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL MEEHAN DOLES OUT THE DAY'S ASSIGNMENTS
UNIT ONE: YOU'LL BE KNOCKING ON REPORTERS' DOORS AFTER MIDNIGHT TO DEMAND CORRECTIONS AND RETRACTIONS. SO REST UP!
YES SIR.
UNIT TWO: MY SON HAS LOST HIS iPHONE. HE LOVES THAT PHONE. I DON'T WANT ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT HERE—BUT FIND IT!
YES SIR.
UNIT THREE: YOU'LL BE CAMPING OUT IN MY BASEMENT AND INDEXING MY COLLECTION OF VINTAGE PLAYBOY MAGAZINES IN CASE I DECIDE TO PUT THEM UP ON EBAY. NOT SURE YET—I HATE TO PART WITH THEM.
UM, YES SIR.
UNIT FOUR: YOU'LL BE WIPING MY ASS. NOW I'M GENERALLY A THREE-BOWEL-MOVEMENTS-A-DAY KINDA GUY, SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK IN SHIFTS.
OK, LET'S GO FOLKS, AND REMEMBER: LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!
DeFreitas

The Warriors Aren't Gone Yet

The very public announcement last week by the owners of the Golden State Warriors that they plan to move the team to a new arena in San Francisco represented a significant blow for Oakland's plans to build Coliseum City in East Oakland. Without the Warriors, the proposed sports, entertainment, retail, and housing complex will lack a major tenant that would bring 20,000 fans to the area at least forty times a year. However, as bleak as things look for Oakland basketball fans right now, the city should not give up hope on Coliseum City. It still represents Oakland's best chance for keeping the A's and the Raiders in town. Plus, the Warriors' planned move to San Francisco is by no means a done deal, especially when considering the typically contentious nature of major development projects in that city.

Just ask **Larry Ellison**. The plans by the Oracle founder for a major development on San Francisco's waterfront were on the very same site — Piers 30-32 — now being eyed by Warriors owners **Joe Lacob** and **Peter Guber**. But Ellison's plans belly-flopped earlier this year after facing much opposition in the city. And the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported last weekend that support for the Warriors' plan on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors appears to be tepid, and that some supervisors intend to demand substantial concessions from the team.

It's also worth noting how rapidly things can change in the world of sports — and that no city knows that better than Oakland. The Raiders, for example, abandoned the city once before, and were previously involved in a nasty lawsuit with the city and Alameda County for many years. But now the Raiders are the one professional sports team that actually wants to stay here.

In other words, Oakland would be smart to forge ahead with Coliseum City, particularly since the A's' proposed move to San Jose, which once seemed as viable as the Warriors' plans for San Francisco, now appears to be dead in the water as well.

Quan Balances Budget

Listening to the critics of Mayor **Jean Quan**, one might think that Oakland is on the brink of financial disaster. In fact, the opposite is true. Last week, amid the panic over the Warriors announcement, Quan and City Administrator **Deanna Santana** unveiled a balanced general fund budget that includes no cuts or layoffs for the first time in four years. In fact, Quan's 2012-13 budget has enough money to finance a much-needed police academy.

So what's going on? It turns out that city tax revenues are coming in at a higher clip than anticipated. In addition, previous layoffs and cuts, along with the pivotal concessions that Quan's administration negotiated with the city's public-employee unions last year, have eliminated the structural deficit in Oakland's general fund.

Quan's administration also appears to have effectively dealt with the elimination of redevelopment by Governor **Jerry Brown** — at least in terms of the city's general fund. In fact, the city has plenty of money in reserve should the state decide to nullify some of the redevelopment deals that Oakland made last year.

The one dark spot on the horizon, however, is the city's old pension plan for cops and firefighters. The old plan, which only applies to some current retirees, has long been a financial burden for the city. And finding a sustainable way to fund it will be one of the biggest challenges that Quan and the city council will face in the next year. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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LEGALIZATION NATION

CHRONIC 'BENGAY' FOR WHAT AILS YA?

Medical cannabis topicals treat pain and inflammation, so why is the federal government harassing old ladies with arthritis?

By David Downs

A new Rasmussen poll shows that 56 percent of Americans favor legalizing and regulating marijuana like alcohol and tobacco and 58 percent favor selling pot in pharmacies only. But the supplies of ganja at Walgreens aren't destined solely for the behind-the-counter rack. Weed is just as likely to pop up in the Bengay aisle.

According to patients, dispensary operators, doctors, and manufacturers, topical cannabis use is soaring in California, Colorado and elsewhere, even amid the federal crackdown. More and more aging Baby Boomers are seeking nontoxic relief from arthritis pain, sore necks and backs, and muscle tension by slathering their skin with an astoundingly diverse array of weed sprays, oils, lotions, rubs and balms.

It's an ancient treatment backed up by a growing body of modern research, but it's not a very sexy one, said Daniel Kosmal, co-founder of Doc Green's Healing Collective, a three-year-old Berkeley nonprofit that provides weed lotions to about one hundred dispensaries across the state. "It's just not a sexy topic for a lot of folks," Kosmal said. "It's not psychoactive. You put it on. It relieves pain, reduces inflammation, and relaxes muscles that are tight. How many people really want to have articles about Bengay? There's no controversy."

Topicals might have remained uncontroversial if it weren't for the seven-month-old federal crackdown. Medical marijuana prohibition is cutting off banking services to topicals makers, disrupting regulation of medical-grade pot growing, closing dispensaries that carry the products, and intimidating the one group that needs it most: the elderly. Lost in the uproar over experts, profits, sales and smoking, are the old ladies and disabled grandfathers getting genuine relief from the drug.

"Paul," founder and operator of Lovingly & Legally Grown, distributes his sprays and oils to about a dozen Northern California dispensaries. The San Francisco and Mendocino resident says he had not used pot or ate edibles since high school. But a car accident in 2007 left him in constant pain from a broken back and ribs. Hooked on Vicodin, Paul became cranky, constipated, and worried about liver damage from the painkillers, so he quit. He had resigned himself to the pain when a chance encounter with a weed spray at a Mendocino swimming hole changed his life.

A local resident could see he was hurting, "so she came out and sprayed my neck, shoulders, and arm, and about 30 to 45 seconds later, 90 percent of the pain was gone. I said, 'What the hell was that?' If anyone had told me what it was, I would've said, 'Nah, nah, nah, snake oil. Placebo effect.' Just denial. But it worked."

Robert Melamede, who teaches biology at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and holds a PhD in molecular biochemistry, said Americans are re-discovering topical cannabis use and are innovating with it. "We've got history that shows all the past medical uses dating back thousands of years and it's those very same uses that people are using it for today," he said.

According to *The Pot Book* (2010) by Dr. Julie Holland, topical weed first showed up in ancient Mesopotamia on Assyrian tablets as an ingredient in a healing ointment used on skin lesions and swollen limbs. In 1700 BC the Egyptians called it "sm sm t" and used it on ingrown toenails and vaginal inflammation, and as a topical antibiotic. The Chinese used it, and it appears in the Old Testament as part of a recipe for healing balms that called for "q'neh bosm," or sweet, fragrant cane.

In the Sixties, scientists discovered a molecule in cannabis that caused euphoria, THC. Scientists went on to find dozens of "cannabinoids," which led to the discovery in the Nineties of a communication system in the human body called the "endogenous cannabinoid system." Humans make endocannabinoids from birth until death and the entire body is full of "endocannabinoid receptors."

Melamede said human skin is loaded with such receptors in nerves, muscle, fat, and hair follicles. Rubbing or spraying skin with THC and other cannabinoids like CBD stimulates the receptors. Cannabinoids have been shown in studies to reduce inflammation and neuropathic pain.

Cannabinoids also modulate the body's immune response, short-circuiting autoimmune disorders like eczema and psoriasis. In labs, cannabinoids can kill malignant tumors and stimulate anti-tumor immune response. Anecdotal reports abound about topical medical cannabis used to treat malignant skin cancers like basal cell carcinoma, Melamede said.

Topical cannabis effects are generally localized, Melamede said, so rubbing some on a bum shoulder won't get you high. However, large amounts of transdermal THC can induce feelings of euphoria, or being high.

Research on topical cannabis continues worldwide, especially overseas, but according to Dr. Frank Lucido of Berkeley, rigorous double-blind studies are needed to buttress patient claims. Patients aren't waiting, though. "I can tell you the patients who are benefiting from medical marijuana couldn't care less if it was FDA approved or not," Melamede said. "They're the ones whose skin cancers are falling off. You think they care?"

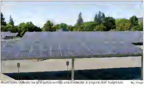
Nichole Long, a 31-year-old San Jose patient, wrote to Legalization Nation asking for more cannabis topicals coverage. She uses a cannabis balm on her face for neuropathy and on her fibromyalgia-racked knees and elbows. "That is the only thing I've found to bring said areas relief," she wrote.

"A number of my patients have had good results with topicals," responded Dr. David Bearman of Santa Barbara.

Bengay, watch your back. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.



Mount Diablo Unified's new solar panels will help protect education programs from budget cuts. Mj Pringle

ECO WATCH

EAST BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT BANKS ON THE SUN

Mount Diablo Unified is offsetting state budget cuts with a massive solar project that will save the district about $6 million per year

By Max Pringle

As schools across California have faced deep budget cuts over the past few years, one East Bay school district has been banking on an innovative plan to raise monies for essential education programs while helping fight climate change at the same time. The plan by Mount Diablo Unified School District in Contra Costa County is also groundbreaking. By the end of this summer, the district will have installed more than 28,000 solar panels at 51 school sites, making it the largest school district in the world to get most of its power from the sun. Starting next school year, the 12.1 megawatts of solar power generated by the project also is expected to save the district more than $200 million over the next 30 years.

"We're going to be generating about $6 million per year in these obviously difficult financial times in the state of California," said district Superintendent Steven Lawrence. "That's huge. It's equivalent to about one hundred teaching positions."

The massive solar project is expected to slash Mount Diablo's annual electricity costs by about 90 percent. To pay for the project, Lawrence said, the district used funds from the $348 million Measure C bond initiative, passed by voters in 2010, and from the federal government's Clean Renewable Energy Bonds program. He said the district's 33,000 students should benefit for decades to come because savings from the project will help Mount Diablo Unified keep programs that might otherwise be on the chopping block — like music, arts, and sports. "It just puts funds in our general fund that allows us to continue programs for our students — be it classroom programs or extracurricular programs," he said.

Three years ago, Mount Diablo Unified officials put the large solar-power contract out to bid. The winning $80 million bid came from San Jose-based SunPower Corporation. SunPower's plan was to take advantage of the abundant sunlight in Contra Costa County while also providing relief for motorists who often search in vain for a shady parking spot. So the company built parking shade structures with solar panels on top at each of the district's campuses. "They provide shade and protection for the cars," said Howard Wenger, president of SunPower, as he motioned to the gray steel shade canopies topped by the latest in solar photovoltaic technology in the parking lot of Northgate High School in Walnut Creek. "They don't take any parking spaces at all and it just improves the parking area here.

"This is by far the largest school system we've ever done and that has ever been done, I believe, in the world," Wenger continued. "Instead of heating the cars up, we're converting that sunlight into electricity with our panels."

SunPower has also committed to helping promising math, science, and engineering students explore careers in renewable energy. "It's a great example for the students and we're going to be hiring about forty interns as part of this program," Wenger said.

Local students attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this month under a cloudless sky at Northgate High were enthusiastic about the program. "I hope to go into a field where I can work with sustainable technology and move all communities forward to be like the Northgate community," said Tiffany Lay, Northgate student body vice president.

SunPower also projects a windfall in environmental benefits. The company estimates that Mount Diablo Unified's solar panels will offset nearly 400,000 tons of greenhouse gases over their 30-year lifespan. That's the equivalent of taking more than 70,000 cars off the road.

Northgate student Adam Avalos also liked the idea of his school being a clean-energy leader. "It's fun to see our school, and the nation, take positive steps in renewable clean-energy," he said. ●

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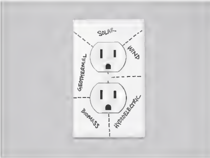


When Will We Go Green?

Some Bay Area communities are forming public-power networks to buy and build renewable energy, but East Bay cities have been slow to join the green revolution. Is that about to change?

By Darwin BondGraham

The Bay Area's economy has the potential to undergo a radical transformation. In fact, some communities are already creating their own public-power networks, buying renewable energy and trying to build their own green-energy economies. But East Bay cities have been slow to embrace this new economic model, even though it would not only shift the literal sources of power for homes and businesses, but also potentially shift political power away from large energy corporations and into the hands of local governments, residents, and small businesses.

Since 2002, a little-known but potentially revolutionary law has been on the books in California. The passage of Assembly Bill 117 came in response to the energy crisis and the ensuing bankruptcy of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which darkened much of the state and sucked billions of dollars from the economy into the coffers of Texas energy corporations. AB 117 was a strategic shift in a decades-old campaign to wrest economic power away from giant corporate utilities like PG&E and Southern California Edison and the big energy companies that supply them with electricity. AB 117 enabled a new model of energy purchasing, called Community Choice Aggregation, or CCA. Many have never heard of CCA, but few existing laws have as much potential to completely transform our economy from the bottom up.

Don't let the boring acronym fool you. In theory, CCA allows local communities to take control of their power-purchasing needs, while still using the distribution networks owned and operated by corporate utilities. The old model of obtaining community control over energy whereby cities bought the entire system — poles, lines, transformers, and all — from the corporate utility and staffed a new public agency from scratch had, by the 1990s, become an impossible task for numerous political and financial reasons. At the top of the list were the fiscal problems of local governments, devastated by decades of corporate tax cuts.

AB 117 eliminated the need to own the energy grid. It was a game-changing idea. Under the new rules, once a local government decides to become an aggregator (by automatically pooling the accounts of ratepayers within its jurisdiction to create a kind of energy-purchasing cooperative) or joins an existing CCA provider, it can choose what energy it will buy for its residential and commercial ratepayers. Communities can then decide to purchase renewable energy like geothermal, solar, small hydroelectric, and biogas — and no longer have to hope that the executives of their corporate utility or state bureaucrats will make the right choices for the environment and local economy.

Not only does CCA put decision-making power in the hands of local governments, but communities can theoretically go one step further by supporting the development of renewable energy sources either through the stimulation of private development (for where there is a demand there will arise a supplier) or by building publicly owned resources.

Most importantly, CCA also shifts the all-important financial power away from corporate utilities and the California Public Utilities Commission (which many activists characterize as suffering from "regulatory capture" by the companies it is tasked with overseeing) and places the power of the purse in the hands of local officials. With this ability comes the potential for reinvesting in conservation and efficiency programs, which, according to most experts, is the real opportunity for greening the grid, creating thousands of new local jobs and lowering consumers' energy bills. If done right, many advocates say, Community Choice Aggregation would be nothing less than a revolution in power, both in the energy sense and the political sense.

But change is hard to make. Those Bay Area governments that have moved ahead with aggregation have been criticized by many activists and energy experts as pursuing CCA in name only, abandoning the three goals of cheaper bills, new jobs, and truly green energy. Worse still are the governments that have done little to nothing to explore and advance CCA, a long list that includes the East Bay's biggest energy user: Oakland.

But in spite of several years of lost opportunity, big changes may be on the horizon.

Hopes were high in the early 2000s for creating an East Bay CCA. Oakland, Berkeley, and Emeryville were part of a joint demonstration project funded by the California Energy Commission to explore aggregation. Each city committed tens of thousands of dollars to the effort and hired Navigant Consulting, an independent firm, to conduct a feasibility study and prepare an implementation plan. Fittingly, Oakland's money for the feasibility study came from a settlement reached with Williams Energy, and funds for the implementation plan from Duke Energy, two of the companies that gamed the energy crisis to gouge Oakland residents.

However, by 2005 this investment of time and hard-won money hit a wall. Navigant's studies came back with bad news for Oakland's leaders. Citing energy bills that could jump by more than 6 percent, potential city liability for CCA debts, and uncertain and possibly expensive regulations, the city administrator reported to the city council that "although CCA appeared promising in the preliminary analyses, after a comprehensive review, the Business Plan does not support a recommendation to move forward at this time."

Oakland Councilwoman Nancy Nadel briefly put up a fight to save CCA. "Emeryville dropped their interest. Berkeley had some remaining interest," she said in an interview. "I wanted to call a joint meeting with Berkeley to educate ourselves about how well Marin was doing and other efforts from other cities and counties doing CCA, but couldn't get the votes on the council to schedule it." According to Nadel, the Great Recession and the avalanche of problems it dumped upon Oakland quickly extinguished the council's ability to focus on CCA — an irony, given aggregation's potential to spur the local economy and build resiliency. Instead the city council was sucked into a vicious cycle of budget cuts, layoffs, and program eliminations, further dampening the region's economic outlook.

PG&E also had a hand in killing CCA in the East Bay. "The council was lobbied heavily by PG&E against CCA, and that had some success in stifling interest," Nadel said. Her efforts to revive talks and clear up misconceptions failed, as did the pleas of activists with the Local Clean Energy Alliance, a coalition of green energy and labor advocates that includes some of the most knowledgeable experts on CCA. By 2010, Community Choice Aggregation was dead in Oakland, and set back considerably in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Richmond.

Paul Fenn of Local Power Inc., a consulting group that helps local governments establish CCAs, said that the Navigant study also harmed East Bay efforts to create a regional energy aggregator. "Navigant kind of poisoned CCA in the East Bay," he said. "The key problem is that they used these pre-existing rate models, but CCA is a new structure." And by using old models, and assuming other risks faced by traditional municipal utilities, Navigant's study ended up confusing Oakland, Emeryville, and Berkeley officials, causing them to think the risks were enormous while the savings were minimal or even negative, Fenn said.

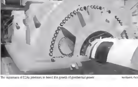
While most East Bay cities had given up, something else was brewing that would eventually revive the potential for renewable energy to kickstart the local economy. The East Bay Municipal Utility District was busy conducting its own in-house studies to figure out how it could replace PG&E as the supplier of energy for its massive water service area. Meanwhile, officials in Richmond weren't quite ready to throw in the towel, even after their assumed partners dropped out. Eager to erase their city's image as an oil company town, Richmond officials closely tracked CCA in Marin County, where it was succeeding. At the same time, efforts in San Francisco were advancing, propelled largely by activists who confronted both PG&E's attempts to kill the nascent CleanPowerSF and city officials who were trying to gut the CCA of its job-generating potential. Up in Sonoma County another CCA was beginning to take shape.

Marin Energy Authority, California's first operational CCA, launched in 2009 despite PG&E's efforts to snuff it out with an aggressive marketing campaign. In its short existence, Marin Energy Authority has proven that CCA works, and that the fears of Oakland's City Council, and other East Bay officials, were unfounded. Energy rates paid by Marin County residents are just slightly higher than what PG&E charges, and the mix of power delivered is the greenest in the state, far exceeding what is delivered by corporate utilities. Come this July, the Marin Energy Authority will be serving 95,000 customers, nearly all of Marin County.

Shawn Marshall, the founder and director of LEAN Energy US, a San Rafael-based company that helps local governments transition from corporate utilities to CCAs, calls Marin Energy Authority "an economically and environmentally robust agency." Despite the obstacles, and lack of understanding for what CCA requires of local governments, "MEA is doing a great job of demonstrating the operational viability and local benefits of CCA. It's always hard to be the first," Marshall said.

As of May 15, plans for the authority just got a lot bigger too. In a widely anticipated decision, the Richmond City Council voted to fold the city into Marin Energy Authority, a move that will bring tens of thousands more ratepayers. "We've been at this a year," said Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay about the effort to join the authority. Lindsay and Richmond's leaders believe that abandoning PG&E for the city's energy production and purchasing needs will not only advance its progressive climate goals, but can also serve to transform the local industrial base and place Richmond among leaders in solar development. "We think that there is potential to have this be an economic boost for Richmond," Lindsay said. "The one thing we feel we have is our ability to sell power to MEA through the feed-in tariff. We have a lot of rooftops for solar. We think it provides good possibilities down the road." Lindsay pointed to the Port of Richmond as an ideal site for massive rooftop solar development.

The feed-in tariff, the process by which locally generated renewable energy — such



The expansion of CCAs promises to boost the growth of geothermal power

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Richmond hopes to greatly increase rooftop solar

as rooftop solar — is fed into a utility's electric grid is another existing policy that could, if reasonably applied, enable the mass development of renewable energy sources. Conceptually, feed-in tariffs are perfect tools for a CCA program. However, just like CCA, the feed-in tariff has yet to live up to its promise, due mostly to the equivocation of state and local politicians who have sent confusing signals to potential developers. California's feed-in tariffs are poorly designed, according to Paul Gipe, an internationally recognized expert on the subject. At a recent energy conference in Oakland, Gipe characterized California's feed-in tariff laws as "timid" and "lacking vision."

Current state law seeks to promote the development of 480 megawatts of renewable energy sources statewide via feed-in tariffs. Within PG&E's service area, any customer may participate. Thus, anyone who builds a renewable energy generating source — like a backyard wind turbine — can sell the power generated to PG&E for a fixed price. But Gipe points out that 480 megawatts is a tiny commitment for an energy market as massive as California's, and that there's a cap on the size of a contributing power plant. The cap seriously undermines the incentive for developers because it effectively prohibits taking advantage of economies of scale. Currently, an independent energy developer using the feed-in tariff may not contribute more than 1.5 megawatts to the grid. Furthermore, PG&E's payments for electricity are relatively low compared to other buyers such as Marin Energy Authority. There is no single, simple, and fair feed-in tariff for Californians to benefit from. Instead, there is a complicated and half-hearted array of tariffs that apply in different services areas.

This fact and other limitations have caused California to fall far behind in renewable energy development. Gipe points to Europe and Japan — where thousands of megawatts have been added in just several years using broader, less restrictive feed-in tariffs — as clear leaders. Even foggy England has bested sunny California in solar, with 1,300 megawatts brought online in under two years thanks to better feed-in tariffs.

Marin Energy Authority, meanwhile, will also have to change its feed-in tariff policy to allow Richmond to use it for a local build-out of solar. Under the authority's current rules, only renewable projects built within Marin County are eligible to participate in the feed-in tariff program. "In order for Richmond to be included in our FIT territory, we will need to update our implementation plan and obtain approval from the California Public Utilities Commission," said Jamie Tuckey, a representative of the authority. "This will likely happen in August." Clearly, then, Richmond's bid to rebuild its economy with green local energy will face piecemeal laws and confused half measures currently limiting renewables. With an official unemployment rate of 16 percent (more than twice the national average), Richmond is in desperate need of good local jobs, such as those that could be provided by a major solar installation program spurred by a feed-in tariff.

Some are also concerned that Richmond is too eager to join Marin Energy Authority, and that the authority serves as a poor model for what aggregation can actually deliver. By joining the authority, "Richmond residents will have to pay more than they are now," said Al Weinrub, coordinator of the Local Clean Energy Alliance. "The green portfolio benefit means getting energy through Shell Energy, probably from big central power plants out in the desert, and Renewable Portfolio Standard credits, which aren't green energy at all." These sorts of renewable energy credits are certificates traded in the market that represent the creation of "green" energy somewhere. A utility can claim to be stimulating the production of renewable energy, or even purchasing renewable energy for its customers, when it obtains such credits, even if the actual electricity fed to its customers comes from a gas, nuclear, or coal plant. Furthermore, these credits do nothing to stimulate the local development of renewable energy, and may even promote development of distant mega-solar projects that will have no local economic impacts.

Weinrub said he doesn't think what Marin Energy Authority is offering Richmond is very compelling. "They get something that's called 'green energy' and they pay more." Weinrub thinks Richmond should be getting more assurances that its economic goals can be realized by joining the authority. A survey of the authority's current portfolio of energy providers shows that California's only currently operational CCA is in fact drawing the vast majority of its electricity from large biogas and wind projects in the Central Valley and further away — meaning virtually no local jobs have been generated in Marin County. CCA advocates like Weinrub and Fenn say the main mechanisms by which a CCA can reduce consumer bills below PG&E's rates require the reinvestment of ratepayer revenues in local energy conservation and efficiency programs and local renewable sources, instead of buying energy from distant big green power plants and through credits. The latter variety of "green" power comes with a premium cost.

At a recent gathering of green-energy advocates, Fenn asked, "What's the goal?" He then answered: "The goal should be to determine what actually gets built, not just focusing on creating a CCA as if it was important in itself. Because it isn't."

Fenn is a guru for energy activists, a go-to guy on both minute technical questions, as well as the big-picture political vision. This is partly because Fenn was the main author of AB 117 and understands the radical potential of CCA like few others. His company, Local Power Inc., also works in the trenches, and is currently helping to launch the most ambitious CCA yet: CleanPowerSF. According to Fenn, CCA only makes economic sense if the build-out of local renewable resources is adopted from the very start.

Like Marin Energy Authority, CleanPowerSF was met initially by PG&E with a full frontal assault aimed at destroying its viability. PG&E bankrolled Proposition 16 in 2010, a statewide measure that was largely about crushing CleanPowerSF and other CCAs being planned. And though Prop 16 failed to get the necessary votes to become law, it had a deleterious effect on San Francisco.

"Under the looming threat of Prop 16, an initiative that would put the kibosh on CCA, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission hustled to get a program — any program — launched," Weinrub said. "They issued some requests for proposals to possible energy providers and in the course of two years since then they have negotiated a contract with Shell Energy for a 30 megawatt purchase of renewable power on the open market. ... This

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is not the kind of deal CCA advocates were in favor of."

CleanPowerSF is therefore set to launch under a model much like Marin Energy Authority, purchasing dubious "green" power on the market through its prime contractor, which is better known for its oil business. At the same time, PG&E is pursuing more subtle tactics to wreck CleanPowerSF, such as rolling out its own boutique 100-percent green energy option, a move widely seen as an attempt to chip away at the ratepayer base of potential CCAs. Real change is hard to make, even when all the tools are available.

Advocates of truly green and locally generated electricity haven't given up, however, and the tide appears to be turning their way. After a protracted battle to pressure San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission, activists managed to get the city to commit to some localization from the start, along with the external power purchases. "The good news is San Francisco is going ahead with localization," said Charles Shultz, of Local Power, Inc.

CleanPowerSF is developing a financial model to pay for publicly owned solar and other renewable projects. When combined with efforts to conserve energy and reduce demand so as to lower customers' bills, Shultz said that CleanPowerSF could beat PG&E's rates. Shultz and his colleague Fenn have a mantra: "Own, don't rent your power" and "build, don't buy your power." In this spirit San Francisco's CCA is empowered with the ability to build renewables through city-issued bonds.

Up in Sonoma County, a similar tack is being taken. County supervisors have embraced the concept of Sonoma Clean Energy, a CCA that would encompass the whole county, which has an electrical load twice as big as Marin's. Activists there are currently working closely with officials to figure out how to maximize the production of local renewables by providing incentives for private developers, and also by reinvesting ratepayer funds in publicly owned projects. The county's RESCO project (Renewable Energy for Secure Communities) is one of the most sophisticated efforts anywhere to study ways of transforming the region's grid by reducing demand, improving conservation and efficiency, and promoting the dispersion of energy generation among distributed, small power sources. It may sound like a wonky study in energy, but it's actually a map for a giant green jobs program.

Sonoma County's effort might also be a model with respect to the kinds of jobs it creates. "If you train someone for a $10-an-hour job to become a solar installer, that's not okay," said Lisa Maldonado, executive director of the North Bay Labor Council. "It's not a real job. You're displacing a skilled electrician." Maldonado recalls that the launch of the Marin Energy Authority was harmed by a lack of outreach to labor, partly because some environmental activists there associated the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers with PG&E, and assumed most unions would automatically oppose CCA.

Maldonado says things have changed a lot since then. In Sonoma County, the nonprofit advocates most responsible for advancing Sonoma Clean Power approached labor unions very early on to ensure that efforts to create local green jobs would be clearly grounded in the terrain of high-paying, benefits-yielding careers. Those involved in building Sonoma Clean Power say that incorporating labor is key if a CCA is to have a positive impact on the local economy. The launch of Sonoma Clean Power is expected within a year.

Activists note that large remote wind farms don't create local jobs.

COURTESY NREL

As for Oakland, Berkeley and Emeryville, they have been paralyzed, unable to take advantage of the laws and regulations that currently allow for bold economic initiatives like those being pursued in San Francisco, Sonoma and Marin with Richmond. According to some, this might all soon change, though.

Berkeley took an important if small step in January by formally declaring its intention to create or join a CCA, and requesting the necessary electrical load data from PG&E to study the viability of various CCA business plans. "This is one of the possible tools to actually make progress on greenhouse-gas reduction, so I am glad that the council voted to move forward with this," said Councilman Kriss Worthington, who introduced the resolution.

The city resolution is also written to "demonstrate support of clean, local energy," leaving little ambiguity about Berkeley's goals of spurring its local economy. Based on that resolution, Berkeley staff held talks with Richmond in hopes of establishing a joint effort. Although that might now be called off, Berkeley has also been talking with another entity whose entrance into the world of CCA could be a game-changer for the East Bay.

Back in the early 2000s, during the rolling blackouts and spiking electricity rates that were causing havoc in California, the East Bay Municipal Utility District's staff began to investigate means by which they could, as a pre-existing public water and sewage utility, enter the electricity market, thereby stabilizing things under local public control. East Bay MUD hired a consultant and put several staff members to work exploring options. One idea was to form a vertically integrated electrical utility — old-fashioned municipalization. This option was ruled out because of prohibitive costs and risks. Another option involved building renewables on East Bay MUD property so as to reduce the utility's own electrical consumption and dependence on markets distorted by speculators and the volatility of fossil fuel prices. It went with this option, and in ten years East Bay MUD has added several biogas and solar installations. But these efforts are small in the grand scheme of things.

The third option was for East Bay MUD to take the lead as a CCA with the cooperation of nearly all East Bay cities, serving 1.4 million customers. But it also was ruled out. In a bit of legislative oversight, the then-recently signed AB 117 failed to mention existing utilities and other special districts as eligible aggregators, along with cities and counties.

This prohibition changed last year with passage of Senate Bill 790, sponsored by San Francisco legislator Mark Leno. The law was primarily designed to check PG&E's various efforts to kill CCAs with cynical marketing and lobbying campaigns, but it also included a little-noticed redefinition allowing existing public utilities like East Bay MUD to become aggregators. East Bay MUD's leaders have quickly picked up where they left off exploring the case for a CCA in the East Bay.

Although it appears to be too late to convince Richmond to pause its entry into the Marin Energy Authority, East Bay MUD's re-entry plan may mean big things for Berkeley, Oakland, and Emeryville — and Piedmont, Albany, Kensington, El Cerrito, Hayward, Orinda, Walnut Creek, Danville, San Ramon, Pleasant Hill, Lafayette, Crockett, and other towns and vast unincorporated portions of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. East Bay MUD's service area is so large that it would easily become the largest CCA in California, perhaps the nation, if enough of the cities within its territory vote to join. This whole opportunity is just an idea at this point, stress many of the officials exploring it, and exactly what it would look like is anyone's guess.

"One of the most exciting opportunities with CCA is the ability to transform our local economy with new clean-energy jobs," said Andy Katz, an East Bay MUD board member representing Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, Kensington, and north Oakland. Along these lines, Katz said San Francisco is a good model to learn from, even if they've had trouble in some areas. "It's important to study, as San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission is, the local build-out of solar energy and also investments in energy efficiency." Katz said it's too early to assess the results of CleanPowerSF and that specific features of San Francisco's CCA could be improved, but that the focus on creating local clean-energy jobs is the right one.

Like the officials and activists developing Sonoma Clean Power, Katz said he is interested in bringing organized labor into the fold. "I am very interested in addressing workers' concerns," he said. "I've already discussed this with reps from the electrical workers union who represent Alameda County."

East Bay MUD's board has directed staff to step up talks with leaders of various cities to gauge their interest in constituting a region-wide CCA. A report on the feasibility of a joint East Bay MUD-East Bay cities CCA is due in November and will be public by December, said Michael Wallis, operations director for the district. Wallis said his staff has already had meetings with Berkeley, and that a sit-down is scheduled with Emeryville's leaders. The mayors of both cities have formally declared interest in an East Bay MUD-coordinated CCA in letters to the district.

Under East Bay MUD's lead, and with cities like Berkeley and Emeryville on board, a possible regional CCA would be viable, said those who are familiar with the model's economics. But without Oakland — the region's largest industrial and residential municipality — the potential to remake the East Bay's economy is much diminished. If united, an East Bay CCA comprising the major waterfront cities and many surrounding cities and towns in the hills, could be a tipping point, clean energy advocates say. "The level of redirected revenues, if a significant number of East Bay cities formed a CCA, would reach into the billions of dollars," predicted Shawn Marshall. "This would have tremendous regional economic value and impact overtime."

Perhaps the biggest reason why Oakland's leaders let CCA fall off their agenda two years ago was fear of financial liability. These anxieties were stoked by PG&E-friendly lobbyists such as the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (a PG&E representative sits on the chamber's board of directors). The chamber's executive director, Joseph Haraburda, claimed in a 2008 op-ed in the *Oakland Tribune* that launching an Oakland CCA would require $17 million in city funding. Furthermore, Haraburda implied that Oakland would financially be on the hook, concluding that "we have too much on our plate right now — public safety concerns, budget concerns, and business concerns — to take on such a risky venture."

"One thing to be clear about," Marshall explained recently, "is that ratepayer revenues generated by a CCA do not co-mingle or support a city's general fund. CCAs in California are operated as separate agencies and, by law, the balance sheets and associated liabilities are kept separate from those of individual member cities." According to Marshall, "now is the time" for CCA in the East Bay precisely because the local economy is hurting.

"Because the industrial load is much bigger over here" in the East Bay, said Fenn during a recent talk to local energy activists, "a CCA would be able to redirect enormous revenues." An Oakland CCA alone would have a budget as large as the city's actual budget, and a large proportion of this could be directed to local projects.

Representatives in Mayor Jean Quan's office didn't respond to requests for comment about what Oakland plans to do with respect to CCA. Councilwoman Nadel said that city staff are consumed currently with drafting and issuing a new garbage franchise contract and finalizing state environmental studies related to Oakland's Climate Action Plan, but that the council will soon revisit CCA when staff time and resources are freed up. ●

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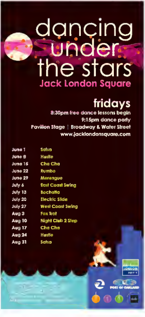

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Lee Pandell

CULTURE SPY

FLOAT ON

Interest in floating is surging locally but are the benefits all they're cracked up to be?

By Lex Pandell

At the time that John Balquist decided to float for the first time, about a year ago, he was suffering from sleep deprivation. "I have two little kids," he said, "so I hadn't had a stretch of long sleep in about five years." The night after he floated, Balquist said he slept soundly. He also felt a creative surge: He picked up a forgotten guitar and wrote five songs in a month.

Balquist, who also practices yoga, said floating in a sensory-deprivation tank is unlike other forms of relaxation or meditation because floaters don't need to worry about posture or external sensations. "Whether or not I start paying attention to my breath, I get into a very meditative state," he said.

Which is why Balquist decided to open his own float center, Oakland Floats, this past February. Although it's just the second floatation tank center in the city, and one of eight in the Bay Area, its popularity reflects a renewed interest in floating that's currently sweeping the country — even though the tanks were invented almost sixty years ago.

Proponents of floating, which costs between $60 and $75 an hour locally, are often effusive about the many benefits the practice provides. They use words like "amazing," "beautiful," and "very personal" to describe their experience, and some claim to feel like a new, younger person — "completely rejuvenated," is how one online commenter put it.

But could floating in a tank of Epsom salt and water really make someone feel all those things? I decided to find out.

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, I visited Oakland Floats in its upstairs space at 344 40th Street.

After waiting for a few minutes in the reception area, manager Dacia Alexander led me into the room where I would try my first float. There was a terrycloth robe for me to wear before and after my session, as well as a towel and earplugs. And of course there was the tank. The white, rectangular chamber sat on the floor and was about as high as my chest.

"It's much bigger than I expected," I said. Alexander laughed. "A lot of people comment on that," she replied. What I did not say: It looked a little like a vault or a meat locker. My stomach tightened.

I was about to lie in that eight-by-four-foot box. The ten inches of water in the bottom contained eight hundred pounds of Epsom salt, which would make the water so buoyant that my body would be suspended. The water was kept at exactly 93 degrees, the same temperature as my skin, so I wouldn't feel the water or anything surrounding me. Since the tank is soundproof and I would be wearing earplugs, I would hear nothing. And once I would close the tank door behind me, I would see nothing, too.

And then I would float.

Floatation tanks, also known as sensory-deprivation or isolation tanks, were invented by neuroscientist John C. Lilly in 1954. The tanks eliminate all external sensations, and the result, proponents say, is complete relaxation. Studies indicate that benefits include improved sleep, decreased stress, and reduced blood pressure, according to the Floatation Tank Association. Floating may also help produce theta waves, which are what the brain produces when in deep meditation or drifting off to sleep, according to studies from Texas A&M University and the University of Colorado.

Although drug use is prohibited at most centers, drugs are intrinsic to the history of floating. Lilly wrote about floating under the influence of LSD and ketamine, and the 1980 film *Altered States* is "based on his experiences with drugs in the tanks." But floating can also just be some quiet time in an Epsom salt bath.

I was trying to remember this as I stood in my robe and stared at the tank. Alexander had left so I could shower in a nearby restroom and come back to float in the private area. Although I knew I could get out of the tank at any time, I was worried about claustrophobia.

I took a deep breath, slipped off my robe, stepped into the salty water, and closed the door behind me. I lay down and tried to be still, but my body swayed back and forth. I knocked into one wall with my elbow, which sent me into another wall. Once the waves died down, I closed my eyes. The sensation that I was surrounded by nothingness took over and I started to slip away.

The popularity of yoga, meditation, and floating may have similar roots — more people are seeking alternative relief from technology and stressful schedules than ever before. Samadhi Tank Co., based in Grass Valley and run by husband and wife Glenn and Lee Perry, worked with Lilly to develop the first commercially available tanks. The Perrys opened their business in 1972, but Lee said sales and interest have increased tremendously in the last four months.

"I'm not sure what the original [cause] is," Lee said. "Tension in the world and people responding with a need to get away from it? I don't know ... but people suddenly have realized that these tanks have been around for forty years and it's something they must go and try out."

At Float On in Portland, the largest float center on the West Coast, about 1,000 people float each week. Allison Walton, owner of FLOAT Floatation Center & Art Gallery, Oakland's oldest float centre, said that business was slow when the center opened in 2006, but that interest has boomed in the last three years. At Oakland Floats, business has also steadily increased, thanks in part to a LivingSocial deal in April. While there were 47 floaters in March, the center's first full month of operation, Balquist now sees about 11 floaters per day.

Back inside the tank, my 75-minute session sped by. Suspended in the water, I realized how much tension I carried in my neck and tried to relax. After a while, I started to feel weightless. I forgot where the water stopped and my body began. And then I fell asleep.

I had no idea how long I napped. Even after I woke up, I felt as though I was drifting in and out of consciousness. Finally, the water filter came on, signaling that my time in the tank was up.

When I stepped out of the tank, I felt disoriented, as though I had taken a long nap or meditated in a dark room for too long. But after I rinsed the salt off of my skin in the shower and sipped cranberry tea, I felt more centered.

Later that night, I slept like a rock. ●

A version of this story appears on Oakland North at OaklandNorth.net

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Lisa Festive Rose: *Golden State*, oil on canvas, 30" x 48, 2011. Detail. Image courtesy of the artist.

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EVENTS&ATTRACTIONS

The Science of Shredding

A new exhibit at the Lawrence Hall of Science breaks down the physics of skateboarding.

Of the countless people who went outside to witness the recent annular solar eclipse, around 4,000 showed up at the Lawrence Hall of Science (1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley) to view the anomaly through solar telescopes. The ample turnout was proof that at least one way to guarantee a huge crowd at the hall is to celebrate some incredibly rare natural phenomenon. But since another such eclipse isn't expected until 2023, in the meantime the UC Berkeley science center will need to rely on an entirely different kind of star power to attract hordes of visitors — like, for instance, skateboard legend Tony Hawk.

Courtesy Tony Hawk Inc.

Tony Hawk tests physics

To begin with, Hawk and a handful of as-yet unannounced professional skaters are giving a live skateboarding demonstration on a temporary vert ramp set up in the center's plaza on Saturday, June 2. All 975 tickets to the event sold out within three weeks, but there's much more to the Birdman's visit than a simple demo. His appearance marks the world premiere of *Rad Science*, an expansive interactive exhibit designed to illustrate basic physics principles through dozens of skateboard-themed simulation stations.

The traveling exhibit, on display through September 3, is essentially an ingenious attempt by grownups to acquaint youth, the sport's largest demographic, with science. And by transforming a bulk of the museum into an ersatz skate park — complete with physics equations scrawled onto the walls like graffiti and scientific explanations displayed on faux park signage — organizers have made an earnest attempt to appeal to young crowds.

Visitors can drop inside a replicated backyard pool, a choice skate spot for many a renegade boarder, and emerge with an understanding of Newton's Three Laws of Motion; learn about the centripetal force involved in skating a half pipe by lobbing a ball around a 360-degree loop; and get schooled in gravity by balancing atop a stationary skateboard. "Physics are the key to everything in the natural world," explained John Good, president and executive director of Exhibit IQ, which helped develop Rad Science. "You could look at the physics behind any sport or activity, but with skateboarding it's really easy to demonstrate those principles at work. Plus it's really cool to watch — especially when people are doing radical tricks."

And if anyone can attest to that, it's UC Berkeley physics professor Joel Fajans. Whereas Hawk was integral in designing the skateboarding component of the exhibit (meaning visitors can hope to glean nearly as much about the culture and evolution of the sport as about the science behind it), Fajans helped develop its scientific end. Because he's more accustomed to studying antihydrogen atoms than extreme sports, Fajans spent hours observing skateboarders in action and reviewing frame-by-frame footage of their movements in order to break down the physics of each trick in layman's terms. And he concluded that while one needs no science know-how to execute a basic Ollie or even an ambitious "900" aerial spin, it's still a cool way to think about the sport and to (hopefully) endear kids to physics. So will the 54-year-old physicist use his newfound knowledge to become the next Tony Hawk? "No, definitely not," he laughed. "Some things are best admired at a distance."

Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., $6-$12, free for members and UC Berkeley students and staff. 510-643-5132 or LawrenceHallofScience.org.

— *Cassie Harwood*

ATTRACTIONS

Goodguys Summer Get-Together With an exhibition of hot rods, muscle cars, and custom bicycles, a model and pedal car show, kids' activities, racing, and much more. Sat., June 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., June 3, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. $8-$18, free for kids under 6. Good-Guys.com. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 925-426-7600. [illegible]

Jack's Night Market A First Friday shopping bazaar with Oakland-based artisans and designers, live music, and performances by [illegible] and magicians. Fri., June 1, 6-10 p.m. free. Jack London Square, 54 Washington St., Oakland.

Little Leaguers Weekend at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With baseball-themed activities and exhibits. Wear a uniform or sports shirt for $3 off admission. June 2-3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

Lunar Eclipse Viewing Watch the Moon pass behind Earth from Chabot's observatory deck between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. Mon., June 4. $3. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Tractor Time With a tour of tractors, from tractors, a tractor and a wagon ride around the farm. Sat., June 2, 2-3 p.m., Sat., June 23, 2-3 p.m. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

Transit of Venus Watch Venus pass in front of the Sun for the last time until 2117. With hands-on activities, live NASA broadcasts, and viewing through solar scopes and our [illegible]. Tue., June 5, 3-10 p.m. free. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Family Fun Festival The eighth annual festival features hands-on activities, games, [illegible] performances, and international themes. Sat., June 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Hispanic Heritage Day In addition to the day's horse races, a celebration of California history with a visit from the San Jose [illegible], a kids' area, a money [illegible] activities, live bands, [illegible] drawings, and margaritas. Sun., June 3. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy, Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

[illegible]: Transforming Performance Anxiety Into Peak Performance A workshop for performing artists, athletes, and public speakers who suffer from performance anxiety. At the East Bay Media Center, 1939 Addison St., Berkeley. Sat., June 2, 1-5 p.m. $35. 415-751-6777. PeakPerformance[illegible].com.

Introduction to Mindfulness Workshop Mindful Life counselor [illegible] Anderson shares simple techniques to reduce anxiety and stress. Sat., June 2, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. free. [illegible], Public Library, [illegible], 3505 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

KIDS

Art Workshop with MOCHA Artists from the Museum of Children's Art in [illegible], art workshops with different themes each week. Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., free. [illegible], Public Library, [illegible] Ave. [illegible], 1021 81st Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5812. OaklandLibrary.org.

Nature Explorers With [illegible], [illegible] activities, for kids ages 6-8. RSVP advisable. Tue., June 9, 3:45-5 p.m. Tue., June 19, 3:45-5 p.m. $6-$7. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887. EBParks.org.

Investigating [illegible] With an exploration of Tilden's bugs for kids ages 6 and up. Sun., June 3, 2-4 p.m. free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Juneteenth Introduction The Unique

First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday June 1st.

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

Redux Studio & Galleries
2315 Lincoln Ave

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave

Urbanity
1897 Solano Ave

OAKLAND

4707 Gallery
4707 Telegraph

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave

Anna Edwards Gallery
237 East 14th St.

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Book Zoo
16 Glen Ave

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

The Compound Gallery
1167 65th St

The Crucible's Cathedral Gallery
1815 Broadway

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

Gamma Space
6608 San Pablo Ave.

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St

Kuhl Frames + Art
412 22nd St.

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

Linville
3696 Piedmont Ave.

LoBot Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Lukas Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Macarthur Harthur
4030 MLK Way

Paradise Lounge
2272 Telegraph Ave

RAW Gallery
1951 Telegraph Ave.

Red Door Gallery
#10 24th St

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rose Café
1918 Park Blvd

Royal Nonesuch Gallery
4231 Telegraph

Smokey's Tangle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave.

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St

Sticks + Stones
815 Broadway

Studio One Art Center
365 45th St.

The SweetIIIArt

Drawing Gallery
6482 San Pablo Ave

Tech Liminal
268 14th St

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave

OAKLAND ART MURMUR

Betti Ono Gallery & Shop
1804 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave

Classic Cars West
411 26th St.

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

Crown Nine Jewelers and Makers
461A 9th St.

Era Art Bar
19 Grand Ave

Farley's East
33 Grand Avenue

FM Gallery
483 25th St.

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on G and Ave between Broadway and Valley

The Hive
311 Jefferson St.

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave.

Krowswork Gallery
480 23rd St.

Manna Gallery
473 25th Street Suite 6

Marion & Rose's Workshop
461 9th St

Mercury 20
475 25th St

The Moon
447 25th St.

Oaklandish
1444 Broadway

Oakopolis
447 25th St

Photo
473 25th St.

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Res Ipsa
455 17th St. 3rd Floor

Rescue Ceramic Gallery
473 25th Street, Suite 5

Shadravan's Art Gallery
2435 Telegraph Ave

SLATE Contemporary
473 25th St

Studio Quercus
385 26th St.

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

Telegraph
2318 Telegraph Ave

Urban Legend Cellars
621 4th St.

Vessel Gallery
471 25th St

The Wall Gallery
473 25th St

Warehouse 416
416 26th St.

SAN LEANDRO

UrbanSpace Gallery
811 Washington St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to **Promotions@EastBayExpress.com** to be included in the July directory.

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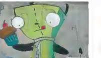
PICKS

Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival

Nowhere, do the lines blur [illegible] and chalk pair so well than at the annual Chocolate and Chalk Art Festival at Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto (Shattuck Ave. between Rose and Delaware sts.), where artists transform the city's sidewalks into a veritable chalk canvas under the gaze of chocolate-chomping revelers. In addition to live music, kids activities, and vendors, this year's festival on Saturday, June 2, features unusual chocolate offerings including chocolate goat-cheese truffles, Caribbean chocolate [illegible], and chocolate ricotta pizza. Artists of all abilities can sign up for the chalk-art contest the day of the event and win up to $250 in cash prizes. Rain postpones to June 9. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. 510-548-5335 or AnotherBullwinkelShow.com —*Cassie Harwood*



Oakland Indie Awards

Some Oaklanders show their love for the city by donning "I Hella [illegible] Oakland" T-shirts; others by devoting their dollars to local businesses. However you choose to express your affinity, the Oakland Indie Awards at the Kaiser Center (300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland) on Thursday, May 31, are a surefire way to celebrate the independent businesses and artists that help define it. The ceremony, organized by One PacificCoast Foundation and the *Express*, recognizes winners from a field of more than two hundred nominated for their innovation, sustainability and community contributions. Pass on the stodgy awards ceremony: The soiree includes a cupcake bar, a Polaroid photo booth, T-shirt screen printing, live drumming, and other Oakland-style attractions. 5:30-10:30 p.m., free. OaklandIndieAwards2012.Eventbrite.com —*CH*

Unplugged With Kardamom lady drumming, [illegible] tricks, and more. In the Alameda room. Fri., June 1, 1 p.m., free. [illegible] Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., [illegible] 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Kids' Clothing Swap With a swap of clean clothing for kids sizes infant to 10/12. Clothing only. Sun., June 3, 1-4 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org.

Lambs, Kids, and Piglets, Oh My! With animal feed and a stroll around the farm. Sun., June 3, 1-2 p.m. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797, EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

Meet the [illegible] Learn why rabbits are great hoppers and how they use their long ears to sense danger. Sat., June 2, 10:30-11 a.m., Sat., June 23, 10:30-11 a.m. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797, EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

San Lorenzo Farmers Market Kids Day With special activities for kids. First Saturday of every month. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. San Lorenzo Farmers Market, Hesperian and Paseo Grande, and outdoor [illegible] PCFMA.com/Market_Home.php?Market_Id=68

[illegible] and Squirts With outdoor activities for pre-school-aged children. RSVP required. Tue., June [illegible] 10:15-11:30 a.m., Tue., June 19, 10:15-11:30 a.m. [illegible] Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-544-2775, EBParks.org.

Tracking with Tots: Tips and Tricks Take your toddler on their first hike. [illegible] and Jabaoko [illegible] and try tools to help your young one [illegible] nature. Sun., June 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon, free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757, EBParks.org.

Tyke Explorers 2012: A Rocket, Odyssey 2 With rocket-fueled games and activities for kids. Tue., June 5, 10 a.m., 12 & 3 p.m., $10-$12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

PETS

Rabbit Adoptions With rabbits for adoption from five Bay Area rescue groups, [illegible] shops, free nail trims for visiting bunnies, and more. Sat., June 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 415-984-8075, RabbitsHomeAnimal.org. East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. 925-479-9670, EastBaySPCA.org.

SALES, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

[illegible] Night Out Buy a passport for a Sunday tour of seventeen Elmwood District restaurants and merchants. Tue., June 5, 6-8:30 p.m. $20. ShopElmwood.com.

Out Brews for a Cause: Fundraiser to Support Universal Access With [illegible], and dance lessons in Zumba, Hula, salsa, and more. A fundraiser for a free health [illegible], clinic and food program for sex workers, the uninsured, and new immigrants and refugees. At the Street Level Health Project (2511 International Blvd., Oakland). Sat., June 2, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., $15. 510-533-0606, StreetLevelHealth.org.

Jamaica Awards and Dance Saturday Fundraiser A fundraiser and celebration of years of Jamaican independence. With dancing, a raffle, and authentic Jamaican food for sale. Sat., June 2, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $30, or free before 10 p.m. 510-865-3225, JAANC.org. Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda. 510-865-3225, IslandParadiseClub.com.

Power to the People Presents: Art for Solar A fundraiser to help bring solar electricity to schools and health clinics in rural Central America. With local food, sustainable wine and beer, a silent auction, and more. Sat., June 2, 6-10 p.m., $35-$40. PowertothePeople.org. [illegible] Power Center, [illegible] Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-889-2079, [illegible].org.

Open What You Zoo With live art and music, a gallery show, and more. A post-Oakland Art Murmur benefit for Zoo, [illegible] Foundation's project for Burning Man 2012. Fri., June 1, 7 p.m.-3 a.m. [illegible]Foundation.org. American Steel, 1960 Mandela Pkwy., Oakland.

Swap 'Til You Shop! Swapmaster's bi-annual clothing exchange. Swap clean, gently used clothing, shoes, household goods, books, and more. With DJ. Limited for people 21 and up. Sun., June 3, 1-4 p.m., $10. www.Swaptoshop.info. Soundwave Studios, 2300 Wood St., Oakland. Soundwavestudios.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Oakland, Under the Stars With salsa outdoor and a dance party on the waterfront at Jack London Square, courtesy of the Linden Street Brewery Studio. Fri., June 1, 7:30-10 p.m., free. JackLondonSquare.com.

[illegible] Celebration Dance With dancing on two floors to everything from oldies to contemporary pop, provided by [illegible]. Sat., June 2, 7 p.m.-midnight, $15-$20. Just Dance Ballroom, 2500 the Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-436-0888, www.JustDanceBallroom.com.

Kensington Library Knitting Club With knitting, show and-tell and yarn exchange for crafters of all levels. Mon., June 4, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

Singles Cruise on San Francisco Bay With a cruise on the Spirit of Sacramento [illegible] wheel boat, departing from 2 Jack London Square, Oakland. Sun., June 3, 1-5 p.m., $30. 415-507-9960, [illegible].com.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Co-Cycle Outdoor Party A launch party for the Co-Cycle cross-country bicycle tour, celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives. With food and drink from local co-ops, local bands, and more. Fri., June 1, 4-8 p.m., free. Co-Cycle.coop. Mosswood Park, 3612 Webster St., Oakland. 510-597-5038, [illegible]/Parks/Parks/[illegible].asp.

Moonlight Hike With a moderately strenuous 4- to 5-mile hike through the redwoods. RSVP encouraged. Fri., June 1, 6 p.m., $7. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Walk Alameda An Pedestrian Friendly Alameda for an informative walk from the visitor center to the Nature Museum to learn about the city's portion of the Bay Trail and more. Sat., June 2, 9-10 a.m., free. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-[illegible], EBParks.org.

SPORTS SPECTATOR

California Invitational Blind Sailing Regatta Watch a sailing race along the Alameda Estuary for sailors who are blind and visually impaired. June 1-3, 10 a.m. BlindSailingSchool.com/children. Island [illegible] Club, 1853 Clement Ave., Alameda. 510-521-2980, IYC.org.

More Listings Online
Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

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Special Guests from Lawrence Hall of Science [illegible]
Grass Valley Elementary [illegible]
Questions or comments? GVGreenDay@gmail.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

The group show at Vessel Gallery deals with oceanic metaphor

Art Murmur June Preview

Our top five picks this month

June is typically the busiest month for Art Murmur. With all the excitement about Oakland's visual art renaissance, and the strong, unified showing Art Murmur had at the recent art fairs in San Francisco, this First Friday will likely be crazy. Plan to come early and expect massive crowds — especially if the weather is nice. And now that Art Murmur has matured into a citywide event, it's important to acknowledge the galleries that lie outside the 23rd and Telegraph epicenter. It's probably unrealistic to try and see all of them in one evening, so spread out your visits throughout the month. Here are our top five picks.

5. Sheila Ghidini, *Halftones*, and Esther Traugot, *Outside In*, at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary (480 23rd St., Oakland). Master sculptor Ghidini exhibits exquisitely rendered drawings, juxtaposed by objects protected by Traugot's meticulously crocheted works. Graphite drawings and wrapped objects from nature come together to evoke simple themes of beauty, protection, and stillness. Through July 27. 510-260-7494 or ChandraCerritoContemporary.com.

4. Group Show, *Charting the Waters*, at Vessel Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland). Nineteen artists convene to present an equally poetic landscape of oceanic metaphor. You can count on the exhibits at Vessel to be heroic, exciting, and expertly curated. Through June 30. 510-893-8800 or VesselGallery.com.

3. Kevin Nierman, *New Ceramic Work*, at Roscoe Ceramic Gallery (473 25th St., Ste. 5, Oakland). Nierman demonstrates his mastery over the material in a portfolio of work that balances color, form, and concept with deftness. Nierman is careful to never let go of the playful element in his work, which surely comes from years of teaching children in West Oakland how to channel creativity into clay. Through June 30. 415-515-3174 or RoscoeCeramicGallery.com.

2. Judi Pettite, *Rock Works and Poppies*, at The Hive (301 Jefferson St., Oakland). Abstract paintings work to actively distract the viewer from any one object or subject, leading to a confidently portrayed, color-field paradise. Pettite uses vaguely architectural motifs to depict crystalline structures that exist without scale, happy in their loneliness, transcendent in their beauty. Through June 30. HiveStudios.org.

1. *East Bay Open Studios Preview* at Pro Arts (150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland). Potentially as exciting as the San Francisco art fairs, the Annual Pro Arts East Bay Open Studios (400 artists participating, June 2-3 and June 9-10) will dominate the East Bay art scene this month. Catch a sneak peek of the art and schedule your route across that epic event. Through June 10. 510-763-4361 or ProArtsGallery.org.

— Obi Kaufmann

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery: Keeping Up Appearances The gallery's annual recycle/upcycle exhibition, featuring works by Robert Corbin, Tom Chen, Shaya Durbin, Mimi Gellene, Carol Larson, Kate McCann, Carol Rose and Stephanie Hughes, and Jacqueline Thompson. Through June 3. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

The Alley at [illegible] Gallery: First Friday @ Temescal Square Fifth monthly art shows, artisanal food, live local music, and a showcase of independently owned shops. First Friday of every month, 6-10 p.m. 470-482 49th St., Oakland.

Ames Gallery: A Collage of Works With works by Deborah Barrett. Through May 31. **Ascent into the Positive** With Gallery. Images from the gallery's collection. Through May 31. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949. AmesGallery.com.

BAM/PFA: State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970 An in-depth survey of conceptual art and related avant-garde activities by 60 artists and collectives in Northern and Southern California. Through June 17. **UC Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition** With works by Karl Marboe, Frank Eduardo Marquez Lambert, Rodrigo Valles Bock, Kari Bratt, Amy Brakeside, Jennie Smith, and Brett Walker. Through June 10. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu/exhibition/mfa_2012. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Basement Gallery Oakland: Mine Themes A solo exhibition of sculptural works that explore personal and collective memory surrounding issues of comfort, identity, and loss. Through June 15. 1827 3rd St., Oakland. 510-913-2230. BasementGalleryMezzanine.com.

Bay Area Free Book Exchange: Pictures + Words, The Artist Series A three-part showcase featuring local artists' books on the words "book," "free," and "exchange." Part two: paintings by Pinde Ring. Through June 8. 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-766-1206. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Berkeley Art Center: Telling Chile: Art, War, and Disability With works addressing the effect of military pollution on people with disabilities by artists Hugh Thuy Chiu, Emma McClisky, Katherine Sherwood, Naomi Oout, Katherine Sherwood, Emery, and others. Through June 2. **Art, War & Disability** Through June 2. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Brown Brown Cafe Graduate Gallery: With paintings selected by the Bancroft Library and other mediums by Oakland artist Joanne Swan. Through May 31. JoanneSwan.com. 340 14th St., Oakland. 510-452-1084.

CK Gallery: Birdhouse With works made from recycled and upcycled materials by Susan Libby and other local artists. June 2-29. 4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-759-3535. CKGallery.org.

Oakland: Bell's [illegible] Gallery: First Friday Series featuring work by Black Bottom co-curators [illegible] and [illegible]. First Friday of every month, 6 p.m. 1018 Pine St., Oakland. 510-45-4881.

David Brower Center: Thinking Like a River: Art, Advocacy, and the Legacy of David Brower With nature photography by Bill Cummings, landscape photography by Joseph Holmes, and exhibit format by Brower. On display in the David Brower Gallery. Through Aug. 31. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

District: David Soller With explosive and editorial paintings involving graffiti and illustration. Through July 31. 827 Washington St., Oakland. 510-272-1010. DistrictOak.com.

Doug Adams Gallery: Material the Collection: Dimensions of Earth With paintings, sculptural installations and drawings inspired by the natural world by English artist Catherine Richardson. Through Aug. 24. 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-8235. Care-GTU.org/Doug_Adams_Gallery.php.

Expressions Gallery: This Land Is My Land With land, sea, and skyscapes in many mediums. Through June 1. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Famous Four Colors Browse Printing Art Gallery: Metaphysical Graffiti With collaborative drawings combining meditative

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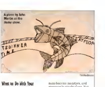
A piece by John Martin at the *Home* show.

Ori Kaufman

Home

The annual *Home* show at Creative Growth (355 24th St., Oakland) is always something to look forward to. Year after year, it presents the best works produced at the Bay Area's oldest and largest center for artists with disabilities. Compelling, colorful, and fun, the art in this exhibit, subtitled *Natural Selection*, focuses on themes of nature and ecology. More than a dozen artists are represented in this multimedia show that includes work in ceramic, textile, furniture design, drawing, and painting. Creative Growth offers a First Friday gallery experience unlike anything else Art Murmur has to offer: a pleasant, brilliantly lit, joyful place free of the aloof and overly conceptual atmosphere you may find elsewhere. Those who attend shows here regularly speak of the infectious love that abounds throughout the community, and the quality of the art is just an added perk. Through June 22. 510-836-2340 or CreativeGrowth.org. — *OH Kaufman*

What to Do With Your Orphan: A Manual

At first, the subject matter might be strangely straightforward: Jennie Ottinger's new paintings at Johansson Projects (2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) are anything but. Her work depicts children, who we are told are orphans, engaged in normal childlike activity. Upon closer inspection, however, these paintings reveal a world that keenly balances horror and humor, ugliness and beauty. People become dolls, nuns become monsters, and everyone is utterly alone. Not only is everyone alone, but everything is alone as well. The brown bed, the plainly lit living room, and the waiting-room door are all characters in this existential universe. In the same way Edward Hopper did it, Ottinger renders the space between her subjects as irreconcilable. The effect is surprisingly refreshing. *What to Do With Your Orphan: A Manual* runs through June 16. 510-444-9140 or JohanssonProjects.com. — *O.K.*

dioramas, mountains birthing Shuffles mushroom-gilded mycelium pathways, and more by Billy Spragge and Hydiene. June 1-30. BillySpragge.com. 1525 Webster St., Oakland. 510-830-1881, FarewellFourColors.org.

Studio Exhibits Art Gallery, Spring With works by Carolina Abelle, Stacey Saffe, Joaquin Newman, Melissa Sitand, Amy Tracy, and Valerie Bernal Icaat. Through June 14. 5741 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-4040 ext. 111. WOAC.org.

Joyce Gordon Gallery, Pay It Forward With artists exploring the mentor/protégé relationship that started in 1993: Oakland Mel Rollert and Gabriel Navar. June 1-July 28. Cathedral-view, coh. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Kala Art Institute Gallery, Visions from the New California With works in various media addressing issues ranging from gender and culture's identity to the built environment and the natural world, by Ms. Chessie-Raggmen, Asad Faulwell, Marcia Johnston, Jonas [illegible], and others. Through June 21. **On View: New Work from Kala** With works in a variety of media by Kala Art Institute-affiliated artists including Lucia Benzaken, Carrie Hott, Mary Anne Kluth, Sarah McCloskey, Anne McGuire, Nora Pauwels, Barr Satterbowker, and more. Through Sept. 15. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

Krowswork, Flotsam With explorations of constructed reality by Benjamin Lord, Mia Walder, and Meese Ear. Through June 16. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-1115. Krowswork.com.

Manna Gallery, Mandala Reconsidered With new paintings and sculptures by Dana Mann. June 1-30. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-788-2335. MannaGallery.com.

Marion & Rose's Workshop, Ugly Body Bauhles With a reflection of celebrative paintings and sculptures by Daniel Healey, Darren Nash, and Michael Cutlip. June 1-July 8. 481 9th St., Oakland. 510-254-0784. MarionAndRose.com.

Marttina Gallery & Exhibition, Collapse An exhibition of photographic, video, and installation work by Bay Area artist Keith Wilson. Through June 30. 1201 Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-558-8093. Marttinaexhibition.org.

Mercury 20 Gallery, Dark Boundaries With soulful hunting paper works by Charlie Milgrom. Through June 30. **This Body A** study in paint colors flesh by Barbara Wallace Strating. Through June 16. **From Door To North** With paintings and mixed media from gallery island Taryl Dunn, Jill McLennan, and Mary Curtis Ratcliff. Through June 16. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-464-1776. MercuryTwenty.com.

MOCHA, a Mill Space at Mallet With illustration work, photography, a mural, shoot, films, a live performance by RIGI MILLIONAIRES, and DJ sets by Nemo387, Willie Mane, Getto Jones, and BobbyPetu. Fri., June 1, 8 p.m.-midnight. Location: 371 17th St., Oakland. 510-385-3348. Tumblr.com/blog/MOCHArt.

Mythos Fine Art & Exhibition, The Beat Gallery Revisited (1964-1968) With works by Beat Gallery artists Helen Adam, Paul Alexander, David Young Allen, Robert Shanton, Sheezie Edwards, Tom Field, Norrd Frost, Fran Herndon, Harry Burland, Jess, Bill Bursford, and Goldbyotey Blasart. Through June 5. 1797 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-4291. MythosFineArt.com.

The Norton Factory Oakland, Pop Life, Open Oakland, and Warehouse Party With works by 13 Bay Area artists, including Brian Kneebell, J.F.X.A. Panda Newman, and Lars Hohe, a gourmet food truck, and more. Sat., June 2, 5-10 p.m. 2098 E. 10th St., Oakland.

Old Crow Tattoo & Gallery, Stand Your Ground: The Sun Is Rising With photographs of the Egyptian Revolution by Shaab Hareeir. Through June 11. 3363 Grand Ave., 510-834-2750. OldCrowTattoo.com.

Radiance Studios & Gallery, A Little Bird Explosions With the artwork of Maureen Shields & Hilary Entevdas. Through June 3. 2305 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-865-1106. StrayAlameda.org.

Rise Above Print Shop + Gallery, Amidst With works inspired by Urbound influences on human culture, from symbolism to architecture and utility, by Christine Pyles, Bradley Shbought, Libby Sandberg, Santiago Dabeda, and others. June 1-30. 8173 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-0050. RiseAboveOakland.com.

San Pablo Art Gallery, Fluid Variations With ceramics and urban works by Jane Gillett, Tiffany Beishtress, and Hadley Ips. Through June 24. 13830 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

S.H.E.D. Projects, I got Studios You got vendors. With mixed-media sculptural works by Christopher Tillemans. Through June 8. 1917 Powell St., Oakland. ShedProjects.org.

SLATE contemporary, Street Information With works exploring the modern urban environment including photography by Cara and Charney, Joseph Jensen, Jon Zabigton, Joanne Kaufmann, and Ray Birkowitz, and collage work by Daniel Gildbliar and Kathleen Cand Smith. Through June 16. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-395-0028. SlateArtsAndDesign.com.

Studio One Art Center, Reflections of Oil and Urbane 2012 An annual exhibition of visual and performing art by Art Sten students. Opening activities from afternoon, a raffle, music, a Sebord prize, street performances, and art. Sat., June 2, 3-8 p.m. 365 45th St., Oakland. 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Studio Oakland, Word Play With works in all mediums exploring media, type and written language by Amy Belaned, Beeton, Lisa Barns, Mary V. Marsh, and Stuart Sherman. Through June 16. 381 28th St., Oakland. 510-452-4870. Studio@versus.com.

Solano Studios + Gallery, On Looking at Things, Really and Truly A solo exhibition of multi-media works by Urbund Stables and neighbors and artists. June 2-July 8. 580 2nd St., Oakland. 510-835-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

Temescal Oakland, Temescal Johnston Art Hop With art, music, food, and drink hosted by more than 20 neighborhood galleries, cafes, bars, and retailers. Pick up a passport from participating locations and collect stamps to enter a raffle for prizes from local vendors. Fri., June 1, 4-9 p.m. TemescalTelegraph.com. Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 40th and 57th streets, Oakland.

Toyroom Contemporary, Through Worlds/ Altered Realities With paintings by Lynda Mako Allen, abstract watercolors by Fischer Davis, and repulsive photographs by Nan Fandell, sculptures and site-specific installations by Kortie Tiwa, and works by Stas Orlovsky. Through June 30. 1615 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Toyroom.com.

UC Berkeley Donation, School of Environment Design, Valley of Vocations & Oakland A Revisited of contemporary photographs from Ken and Melanie Light's book, which highlights socioeconomic urban to California's Central Valley. Through Aug. 1. ValleyofShadowsandDreams.com. 121 North Gate Hall, Berkeley. 510-842-3383. Journalism.Berkeley.edu.

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Comedians with Disabilities Act With Nina G., Steve Danner, Eric Mee, Whitney O'Connell [illegible] and Lena Moore. Thu., May 31, 8 p.m., $10. 510-214-2606, ComedyOBBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-214-2606, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Dan Ahdoot With Eric Cash, Steve Brown and Dhaya Lakshminarayanan. Improv by Joe Gordon and Samson [illegible]. Fri., June 1, 8 p.m., $10. 510-214-2606, ComedyOBBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-214-2606, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

[illegible] Comedy The kick-off to the tour's national comedy tour with the DVD taping. May 31-June 2, 7 & 10 p.m.; Sun., June 3, 5, 7 & 10 p.m., $45-$100. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/242372. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Rodger Liebeis With Liz Grant, Doug Chaplin, [illegible]. Hosted by Joe Gordon [illegible]. Sat., June 2, 8 p.m., $10. 510-214-2606, ComedyOBBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-214-2606, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Say What? Comedy Improv Show With Awkward Face. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $10. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-730-1641, PanTheater.com.

Stone Soup Improv Improvisational acting with short games, novel storytelling, and more. Sat., June 2, 8:10 p.m., $7-$10. 510-390-6808, StoneSoupImprov.com. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Improv by LeRoy Stanford Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m., [illegible]. Island Paradise Club, 3436 Bonner St., Alameda, 510-000-3025, IslandParadiseClub.com.

Sybaan Productions Comedy With George Chen, Anna Dessalberg, and Eric Cash. Open mic sign-ups at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Vibus, 201 Broadway, Oakland, 510-452-1000, VibusRestaurant.com.

Sybaan Productions Presents: [illegible] With [illegible] and Clara O'Kane. Hosted by Amy Miller. Music by [illegible]. Wed., June 6, 8 p.m., $15-$20. SybaanProductions.com. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland, TheNewParish.com.

The Untold Story Improv comedy with Awkward Face. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-261-5641, PanTheater.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Borrowed Roots Of Zlicks With [illegible] performance featuring new works by Hiroko Tamano, with [illegible], Luku Mekonnen, and Crystal Flower and with art by Betty Hobart Kane. Sun., June 3, 7-9 p.m., $10, sliding scale. Subterranean Arthouse, 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, SubterraneanArthouse.org.

Get to the Oakland Savage Jazz Dance Company's 20th anniversary performance, with an appearance (except on Sunday) by the Oakland Ballet. May 31-June 2, 8 p.m.; Sun., June 3, 3 p.m. $8-$30, SavageJazz.org. Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-466-7300.

LIVE VARIETY

Red Hots Burlesque Presents: Dr. Sketchy's East Bay With live drawing of burlesque babes, hula, dirty girls, sing, spoons, and [illegible] models. This month's model: [illegible]. Sun., June 3, 4-7 p.m., $10-$12. DrSketchy.com. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082, StarryPloughPub.com.

Oakland Nights... Live A monthly comedic "talk show" series. This month's "[illegible] Book Club," with readings by Kari [illegible], [illegible] and Andrea Zucker. In the backyard at 3881 Clarke St., Oakland. Sat., June 2, 7:30-? p.m., free. 510-229-6846.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Sue Ellen Nelsen and Josh Matthews direct the Tony Award-winning musical about kids vying for the title of spelling bee champion. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through June 10. $23-$24. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley, 510-733-5483, Chanticleers.org.

Block x Shoe Boys / [illegible] [illegible] world premiere of [illegible] play about children and adults [illegible]. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 29. $14.50-$73. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Crevice The world premiere of Ching Chong Chinaman writer Lauren Yee's new comedy. Directed by Desdemona Chiang. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 9. $10-$20. La Val's Subterranean Theater, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

[illegible]: True Misadventures of the Electric Flash Kid Reed's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a pizza pie man [illegible] to his stint as a [illegible] waiter at a retirement hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through June 10. $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Chloe Bronzan [illegible] the Bay Area premiere of local playwright Lauren Gunderson's play about 18th-century scientist Emilie du Châtelet, paramour of Voltaire and others. [illegible] Sat., June 2, 5 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 1. $18-$35. SymmetryTheatre.com. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-7400, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Friday Night Happy Hour: The Amazing Bubble Man with Music by Jolly [illegible] An audience-participatory pre-performance show for adults. With [illegible] provided by bubble man Louis Pearl, a full bar, and food. Starting Jun. 1, Fridays. Continues through June 29, free. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Marga Gomez's Not Getting Any Younger Gomez's "coming of middle age" story takes the audience from her childhood visit to a dairy cow's [illegible] in the Bronx to her [illegible] 21. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 30. $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Performance Fusion Three programs showcasing the work of Cal State East Bay's Theatre and Dance Department, including films, two-character plays, monologues, and dance. June 8-9 performance held in the school's [illegible]; see Website for [illegible]. June 1-2, 8 p.m., Oakland, 2 p.m.; June 8-9, 8 p.m. Continues through June 11. $5-$15. 510-885-3118, CSUEastBayTickets.com. Cal State East Bay University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, 510-885-3118.

Pygmalion A Town Hall Theatre production of George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy about class and gender. Starting Jun. 2. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 23. $15-$32. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette, 925-283-1557.

Risk For Deep Love Shadow performance artists [illegible]. Bring an instrument and a sense of humor. Sat., June 2, 8-11 p.m., free. 510-528-2858, [illegible]. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland, 510-923-1074, TemescalArtsCenter.org.

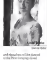
Sylvia A.R. Gurney's romantic play [illegible] the tension that builds between a husband and wife when the [illegible] brings home a streetsmart pooch named Sylvia. Starting Jun. 1. Sundays, noon; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 24. $22-$25. California Conservatory Theatre, 999 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-632-8850, CCT-SL.org.

The Tempest Jonathan Moscone directs Shakespeare's [illegible] play [illegible] by Cal Shakes and performed in an [illegible] amphitheater. Call or see Website for full schedule. Starting Jun. 2. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m.; Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through June 24. $35-$68. 510-548-9666, CalShakes.org. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Xanadu Jeff Collister directs a Center Rep production of the [illegible] comedy [illegible] in Venice Beach. Based on the 1980 film with Olivia Newton-John. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 & 7 p.m. Continues through June 23. $48-$47. CenterRep.org. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org. ●

PICKS

Dance from the Reign of Louis XIV



Glenda Hydler

Take a rare, lovely and rare journey back to the 18th century on Wednesday, June 6, when the Berkeley Festival presents *300 Years On: A Dance Collection from the Reign of Louis XIV*. While the internationally known Baroque ensemble Musica Pacifica plays music from period operas by Campra, Marais, and Destouches, costumed dancers led by period-dance expert Linda Tomko perform theatrical and ballroom dances recorded in the *Nouveau Recueil de Danse*, a collection of choreography published circa 1713. Originally performed in Louis' court and at the Paris Opera, this time around the gigues, sarabandes, and rigaudons will be danced at the First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley). The program also includes instrumental music by Couperin and Rameau, as well as one of Telemann's "Paris Quartets." 8 p.m., $25-$45. 510-642-9988 or BerkeleyFestival.org — *Claudia Bauer*

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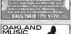

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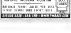

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THEATER REVIEW

DRILLING INTO 'THE GREAT DIVIDE'

Shotgun Players' new play digs deep but leaves cavities

By Rachel Swan

It was the role of the 19th-century playwright to opine and cast judgment; it's the role of his 21st-century analogue to negotiate and facilitate dialogue. At least, that's what a theatergoer might conclude after watching Adam Chanzit's *The Great Divide*, a modern adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. Their very titles show a stark contrast in the playwrights' temperaments. Whereas Ibsen was confident that the masses didn't know what's good for them, Chanzit sees the complexity in every political battle, and, thus, he refuses to delineate between right and wrong.

Such even-handedness makes *The Great Divide* — a new Shotgun Players production directed by Mina Morita — seem thoughtful, discursive, and balanced, but also a little unsatisfying. Chanzit chose to tackle one of the most contentious political issues of the day — hydraulic fracking, which by itself is fabulous grist for drama. Not only does it split us along political and economic lines, it's also divisive in the literal sense: "Frack" is short for "fracture," i.e., fissures created by pressurized fluid with the intent of extracting natural gas. In the last two years, it's become a major national news story, particularly in light of a University of Texas study that raised concerns about water contamination, waste management, air quality, and explosions.

Chanzit took all of these matters into consideration in writing his play, which he set in a small, economically depressed town in Garfield County, Colorado, which stands to benefit substantially from a gas boom. When a large company steps in and decides to drill there, the town residents suddenly have jobs. Most of them work at the plant; others, like Rita Lopez (Santa Ocón) snag jobs as company flacks. The new industry helps bolster the local economy, lower gas prices, and pave the way for more development. Its effects reverberate everywhere, and no one is impervious to the Gold Rush mentality.

Show Details
Through June 17 at The Ashby Stage
(1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $20-$30.
ShotgunPlayers.org

Into that setting comes Doctor Katherine Stockmann (persuasively played by Heather Robison), a dyed-in-the-wool progressive who spent several years working in Latin America but repatriated to Garfield County in search of a simpler life. Her brother Peter (Scott Phillips) is the town mayor; her mother (a salty Michaela Greeley) is the de facto matriarch of what was evidently a local dynasty. Like her namesake in Ibsen's play, Stockmann quickly discovers contamination in the water and concludes that it's a by-product of the new industry. Her complaints fall on deaf ears, since fracking has become not only the town's economic harbinger but also part of its political infrastructure. Just as the original Dr. Stockmann found himself maligned for protesting a line of toxic "medicinal" baths in Norway, this Dr. Stockmann incurs the wrath of locals who are blinded by sudden prosperity.

An undertow of desperation exists in *The Great Divide*.

Thus, Chanzit retained the basic contours of Ibsen's plot, but made the story more nuanced. In *The Great Divide*, no one is either unilaterally good or unilaterally evil. The townspeople who staunchly defend the merits of hydraulic fracking are also the ones who suffer its environmental consequences. The journalist, Howard (Ryan Tasker), who could be a whistle-blower, ultimately yields to popular opinion. Even Dr. Stockmann makes a somewhat wobbly moral compass. As Peter notes, she left him to care for the elder Mrs. Stockmann while she went off to do human rights work. It's a source of ever-festering resentment.

To honor so many conflicting points of view is admirable, and Chanzit did, indeed, write a political play that manages to not be pedantic. That said, he also burdened Morita and her cast with an unnecessarily complex script, and with characters who don't demand that we feel invested in them. It's occasionally hard to tell who works for whom, owing both to "The Company" having no proper name and to the mayor's inability to separate its interests from his own. All political machinations aside, there's the problem of not-easily-digestible subject matter. Hydraulic fracking is by definition wonky, whether or not it's a hot news item. When your Greek chorus of drillers is rhapsodizing about "viscosity," don't be surprised if some audience members nod off.

To their credit, though, Morita and her crew also managed to find romance in their subject matter. For all the talk about natural gas and fuel economy, there's also a bleak Colorado landscape dotted with rusty derricks, all captured in Martin Flynn's industrial set design. There's an undertow of desperation, filtered through the heavy female breathing that dominates Colin Trevor's soundscape. And there's youthful infatuation. Early in the play, Stockmann's daughter Petra (Luisa Frasconi) climbs one of the rigs with her beau, the journalist. Bathed in an orange spotlight, Petra dangles her legs over the landscape of Garfield County. The two of them talk about the future as they gaze down at a deeply fractured rock layer, and at a town on the brink of transformation. ●

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Go to **EastBayExpress.com/ballot**
to cast your votes.

REVOLUTION

THE BEST OF THE EAST BAY 2012

It's Time to Vote for Best of the East Bay!

In our 2012 Best of the East Bay Revolution, we'll focus on the people, products and services that are considered revolutionary. This means restaurants taking new approaches, artists creating groundbreaking works, or activists with game-changing ideas. It can also apply to those who are outspoken, subversive, politically active, irreverent, unapologetic, provocative, or renegades. In other words, the businesses and individuals you need to know about in the East Bay.

Official Ballot Rules: No Anarchy

All votes must be cast via our web site. Go to EastBayExpress.com/ballot to cast your votes. All ballots must be cast by midnight, Saturday June 30. Only one ballot per person. Your votes should be your own. Duplicate ballots reflecting slate voting will be discarded, as will ballots that have been influenced by gifts, discounts, or financial incentives. Valid ballots must have legitimate votes in at least 20 categories. Participants may submit comments about any winner – the best of which will be compiled and published in the Best of the East Bay issue.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

Best academic program
Best community garden
Best company to work for
Best K-12 teacher
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Best nonprofit or charity
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Best program to engage youth
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Most courageous attorney
Most groundbreaking idea
Most outspoken activist
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Most revolutionary city or city initiative
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RESTAURANTS & BARS

Best African restaurant
Best bar
Best bartender
Best barbecue
Best breakfast/brunch
Best buffet
Best Chinese restaurant
Best cocktail
Best coffee
Best cupcakes
Best dessert
Best gay bar
Best gluten-free dish
Best ice cream
Best Indian/Pakistani restaurant
Best Italian restaurant
Best Japanese/sushi restaurant
Best jukebox at a bar
Best Korean restaurant
Best locally sourced/organic menu
Best Mexican or Central American restaurant
Best Middle Eastern restaurant
Best mobile food vendor
Best new bar
Best new restaurant
Best pizza
Best sandwiches
Best Southern/soul food
Best taco truck
Best Thai/Lao/Burmese restaurant
Best vegetarian/vegan restaurant
Best Vietnamese/Cambodian restaurant
Most courageous chef
Most creative drinks
Most subversive use of ingredients

SPORTS & LEISURE

Best athlete
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Most subversive exercise routine

Category we didn't think of and winner

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BLACK OAK STAFF PICKS

**Golden Gate
The Life and Times of America's Greatest Bridge**
By Kevin Starr
$16.00

Happy 75th Birthday to the most beautiful bridge in the world! In this book Starr, author of the definitive History of California, takes on our bridge. It is an amazing story of the bridge they once thought impossible to build. And yet it was built in a time when it often seemed that the economy would never get better. I can only wish our politicians might learn a lesson from its successful construction when we contemplate seemingly permanent gridlock in Sacramento.

Published by Bloomsbury Press 4/24/12

100 Views of the Golden Gate
By Harold Davis
$30.00

There are many pictures of the golden gate and quite a few books collect them. This one is my favorite. Inspired by Hokusai's woodblock series *100 Views of Mount Fuji*, prominent local photographer Harold Davis (http://www.digitalfieldguide.com/blog/13757) gives you 100 truly amazing pictures. The pictures are also available in a postcard book. Here is one of my favorite pictures from this book (found to the right).

Published by Wilderness press, 6/11/08

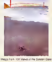

Image from *100 Views of the Golden Gate*

PEGASUS OAKLAND STAFF PICKS

Debt: The First 5,000 Years
By David Graeber
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From the hand of the man who arguably coined the slogan We Are The 99%, comes a true game-changing account of financial history that is both revolutionary and highly readable.

This is important stuff here folks: in ten years college kids are going to be reading this book the same way we are reading Foucault today.

Thank you, *Mr. Graeber*, for writing this book, and giving us hope for humanity. MD

Published by Melville House 7/12/11

The Dunderheads
By Paul Fleischman & David Roberts
$6.99

My favoritest picture book of the year. I love it. I love it so much, if I could build a time machine I would use it to give this book to my younger self so I could enjoy it as nature intended. KLD

Published by Candlewick Press 8/6/09

1001 Whiskies You Must Taste Before You Die
Edited by Dominic Roskrow
Foreword by Jim Murray
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The perfect Father's Day Gift! Whether you're an experienced connoisseur or a weekend adventurer you can't help but appreciate this lovely compendium of whiskies from around the world. Geographically organized with a helpful index in the back, the whiskies here jump out at you and excite your senses. Wow I feel a little tipsy. MD

Published by Universe Publishing 5/15/12

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LECTURES & LIT

Can I Get a Witness?

The Sky's the Limit examines show-stopping trials of the century

Lise Pearlman has one question for you: "Can you imagine a forty-year 'Free Huey' movement and the impact it would've had?" There's an entire alternative universe to explore behind the prompt posed by the author and retired judge — but if you're not sure who Huey is and why he should be free, you're not alone. *The Sky's the Limit: People v. Newton, The Real Trial of the 20th Century?* was originally envisioned as a book about the great lawyers of California, and Pearlman's research led her to Fay Stender, a Newton trial lawyer. Neither were familiar names any longer, and the book had little chance of seeing publication, so Pearlman switched tactics to focus on (in)famous trials themselves, to "refresh people's minds about other trials: what made them important." She winnowed down a list of so-called trials of the century after combing through innumerable polls, then researched them to let readers decide if Newton's deserves to be the trial of the century. Pearlman continues the dialogue at Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, May 31.

Lise Pearlman

Big-ticket trials such as the 1920 White Sox World Series fix, the Scopes Monkey Trial, and trial of the Lindbergh baby killer get their own chapters; the O.J. Simpson trial gets a brief mention. Half the book is devoted to the trial of Huey P. Newton, the Oakland-born co-founder of the Black Panther Party charged with killing a police officer. Pearlman vividly recalls the 1968 trial, preceded by the Democratic Convention riots in Chicago, the deaths of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., and the global violence that threatened to erupt if the revolutionary were convicted of murder. "The assumption," Pearlman remembers, "was that he was going to be executed. If he dies, the sky's the limit. That was the signal for the second American revolution to begin." But the real question is: forty years later, why does no one remember it?

"I think what happened was it got eclipsed by the Chicago Seven trial ... and at the time, the media was dominated by the white male perspective," Pearlman said. "And as a consequence, the people who championed this case ... were not in the mainstream." If Newton had been convicted, maybe his trial would rank higher in lawyers' and online voters' lists. "But the same thing is true of O.J.," Pearlman said, "so it's not the results necessarily that dictate if the trial was significant."

If Pearlman's logic goes, Newton were convicted of first-degree murder, "you would've had something more in the order of a Rodney King riot — you'd have a very polarized society over the repercussions from that kind of volatile eruption." Due to California's death-penalty law, Newton may have spent the rest of his life in jail. "Newton could have remained a movement star, an untarnished revolutionary hero for the rest of his life," she theorized. His impact on black leaders could've been even greater. On the other hand, "I don't think you'd have as many black mayors, senators, Congressmen as you had over the rest of that century," Pearlman said. If riots had followed the verdict, race relations in the country could've further deteriorated. Perhaps Obama would've never ascended to the presidency. The potential repercussions are staggering.

Ultimately, dramatic criminal trials reveal who we are as a civilization, Pearlman said, and "how important it is that even the most vilified defendant get a fair trial." In some cases, they determine how good we are, and how far we've come.

— *Alison Peters*

LECTURES

Berkeley Cybersalon: "Lost or Found in the Social Web?" Technorati TV reporter Andrew Keen and Webbies founder and [illegible] Many [illegible] what the social web has taught. EFF chair Brad Templeton moderates and "Identity Woman" Kaliya Hamlin offers a solution. Sun., June 3, 4-6 p.m. [illegible]. BerkeleyStartupCenter.org. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

[illegible]: "Structures of Utility, Above All, and More" The Berkeley-born architect and photographer discusses his work. Wed., June 6, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087, MoesBooks.com.

Dorothy Lazard: "Chicago, the City and Beyond" The travel and history librarian discusses and gives a virtual tour of the city's museums, parks, and attractions. Wed., June 6, 6-7:30 p.m. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Karen [illegible]: "Seabirds in the Marine Sanctuaries: Point Arena to Point Sur" The Seabird Protection Network representative discusses coastal California seabirds and other marine wildlife. Wed., June 6, 7-8:30 p.m. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Matt [illegible]: "Oakland in Popular Memory: Interviews with Twelve Cutting-Edge Musicians from Oakland and Beyond" The author and [illegible] contributor shares his book of 2006-2012 interviews with local artists about everything from race relations to the music industry. Thu., May 31, 6-7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585, UniversityPressBooks.com.

[illegible]: "Perspectives on Israel" The [illegible] of the New Israel Fund, SF region, [illegible] installment of a four-part series. Thu., May 31, 7:30 p.m. Congregation Beth El, 1301 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-848-3988.

Sandra [illegible]: "From Paz to Philosophy, [illegible]" The founder of the American [illegible] organization discusses her efforts to protect civil liberties and constitutional rights for all in a post-9/11 world. Wed., June 6, 7:30-8:30 p.m. $5 donation. Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, 510-526-3808.

Thai Jones: "More Powerful Than Dynamite: Radicals, Plutocrats, Progressives, and New York's Year of Anarchy" The author discusses his book about the series of events on July 4, 1914, that led to the detonation of a seven-story Harlem tenement. Sun., June 3, 4 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

LITERARY EVENTS

[illegible] Reading from her novel, [illegible]. Sat., June 2, 4 p.m. [illegible], 2934 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible].

[illegible] The author joins Alameda Island Poets and Writers to share his book *Riding the Trail of Tears*, followed by an open mic. Wed., June 6, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-2226, BooksInc.net/Alameda.

[illegible] and [illegible] Reading [illegible] and Whimsy. The writers' respective new books of poetry. Thu., May 31, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2087, MoesBooks.com.

The David Foster Wallace Fandom Book Group Discussing Wallace's *The Pale King*. [illegible] June 5, 1 p.m. [illegible], 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965, [illegible].

In Living Landscapes: Story Telling Expedition A Berkeley [illegible] storytelling tour with walks through private and community gardens in Berkeley. [illegible] Fri., June 1, 7:30-10 p.m. [illegible] 925-457-8700, InLivingLandscapes[illegible].

[illegible] Pepper Sharing Renditions of the

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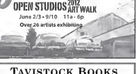

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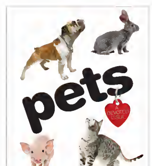

From horses to dogs to chickens, the East Bay loves its pets - which is why we're proud to introduce our new **Pets Issue**. We'll feature articles on all the ins and outs of pet adoption and care, including emerging trends in the pet world, a resource guide for those looking to adopt, and all kinds of tips for raising furry, feathered and scaly companions in the East Bay.

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PICKS

Willow Rosenthal

Mirta Yáñez and Nancy Alonso

Sara Cooper founded nonprofit Cubanabooks in 2011 to bring translations of Cuban women writers' works to the United States. And this year, she brings the authors themselves. Mirta Yáñez' novel *Sangra por la herida* (*The Bleeding Wound*) won the Cuban Critics' Choice prize for literature. *Dismount/Desmontaje* is a bilingual short-story collection by award-winning author Nancy Alonso. Meet the authors, get your books signed, and listen to music from the La Peña Community Chorus of Berkeley on Saturday, June 2 at César Chávez Library (3301 E. 12th St., Oakland), 2:30 p.m., free. 510-535-5620 or OaklandLibrary.org. — *Alison Peters*

Novella Carpenter and Willow Rosenthal

Need help planning your garden to grow? Ask the urban-farming experts. Novella Carpenter and Willow Rosenthal, who celebrate the release of their new book, *The Essential Urban Farmer*, on Thursday, May 31. Partake of beverages, enjoy food provided by a local chef, mingle with fellow Oakland farmers, and go home happy knowing proceeds benefit City Slicker Farms, founded by author Rosenthal, who donated the farm's first plot of land. At First Unitarian Church of Oakland (685 14th St., Oakland), 6:30 p.m., free. Must RSVP to Anna@CitySlickerFarms.org, 510-763-4241 or CitySlickerFarms.org. — *A.P*

Barry Gifford

Barry Gifford has written more books in more genres translated into more languages than most people even dream of. He's also worked with David Lynch and Matt Dillon on film scripts, but the award-winning writer is best known for writing distinctly American tales like *Wild at Heart*, his love story (and continuing series) in the deep South. In his most recent work, *Imagining Paradise: New and Collected Poems*, Gifford includes his favorites from previous poetry collections and includes new selections as well. He reads at Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, June 4, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com. — *A.P*

Berkeley Book Sale

Stock up at the massive sale of the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library Big Book Sale. For one day only, choose from thousands of books sorted by genre and target age group, plus CDs, DVDs, and maps. Books are just fifty cents, and there's a bonus table of free stuff. At Berkeley Central Library (2090 Kittredge St.) on Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m., free. 510-524-8378 or BerkeleyLibraryFriends.org. — *A.P*

Mom: Stories of Love, Struggle and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children with some of the book's contributors. Wed., June 6, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

The Justice Thesis Discussing Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*. Tue., June 5, 7 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965, DieselBookstore.com.

Sketchbook Project 2012 World Tour The Art House Co-op brings its traveling crowd-sourced sketchbook library to 433 9th St., Ste. 100, Oakland, with thousands of handmade books by more than 7,500 artists from more than 100 countries. Fri., June 1, 4-8 p.m.; June 2-3, 1-5 p.m.; June 6-10, 1-5 p.m.; June 13-19, 1-5 p.m., free. ArtHouseCoop.com/projects/SketchbookProject2012.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

PUBLIC INTEREST

Bankruptcy Lawyer in the Library Library sign-up begins at 5:45 p.m. First Wednesday of every month. 6-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Food Not Bombs General Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs meals. First Wednesday of every month. 7:30 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-0751, TheLongHaul.org.

Lawyers in the Library Services provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up begins at 4:45 p.m. Call 510-597-5017 to confirm event. First Tuesday of every month, 5-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland, 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Legal Assistance for Seniors Presents: Seniors' Guide to Public Benefits With an overview of cash benefits, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), CA, CalWORKS, and Food Stamps. Wed., June 6, 1-3 p.m., Hayward Public Library – Weekes Branch, 27300 Patrick Ave., Hayward, 510-[illegible], Library.Hayward-ca.gov.

Living Liberally: Drinking Liberally A political discussion group. First and third Sunday of every month. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677, LukasOakland.com.

Living Liberally: Drinking Liberally A political discussion group. First and third Tuesday of every month. 6:30-9:30 p.m., free. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-[illegible], SpiceMonkeyCafe.com.

Oakland Affairs Discussion Group Discussing the "new normal" [illegible] and what's so new about it. First Saturday of every month. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Library, [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-3402, [illegible]Library.org.

Oakland Affairs Books Group Discussing the fight to save public education in California. Visit website for suggested reading. Sat., June 2, 11 a.m. [illegible] OaklandAffairs.net. [illegible] Library, 6011 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-3407, [illegible]Library.org.

Social Justice [illegible] All are welcome to attend this bi-weekly meeting in the Fellowship Hall's foyer. First and third Sunday of every month. 12:30 p.m., donations encouraged. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

Third Annual Powerful Women of the Bay Awards Luncheon A luncheon, lunch, and ceremony in recognition of the contributions of outstanding women in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thu., May 31, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $95 and up. PowerfulWomen2012.Eventbrite.com. Scott's Oakland Restaurant, 2 Broadway, Oakland.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam: Featuring Mighty Mike McGee Spoken word and a live improvisational band led by [illegible] Gender [illegible], and [illegible] Lucas. Up to $150 in cash prizes. Wed., June 6, 8 p.m. $8. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082, StarryPloughPub.com.

The Blue Candle A weekly open mic for up-and-coming spoken word artists, poets, and comedians. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., free. Dorsey's Locker, 5817 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1935, DorseysLocker.com.

The Golden State Poetry Slam and Open Mic Hosted by three-time Grand Slam Champion [illegible] World [illegible], and [illegible] with music by [illegible]. All ages welcome. Earn points to be on the 2012 Slam team. First and third Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 p.m., $5-$7. [illegible] GSSlam.com. Grand Lake Coffee House, 3[illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-1500, GrandLakeCafe.com.

Last Word Poetry Series Poetry Presents and [illegible]. Final Friday of every month, 8 p.m.; Last Saturday of every month, 7 p.m., free. [illegible] Cafe, 1994 Euclid St., Berkeley, 510-841-6374.

Poetry Diversified A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers hosted by poetry [illegible]. Second and third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2933, WorldGroundCafe.com.

Vagrant Awards Open mic poetry readings. Last Friday of every month, 8 p.m., free. Facebook: VagrantPoetics. Good Stuff Cafe, 4600 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-9700, GoodStuffCafe.com. ●

oaklandindieawards

6th Annual Oakland Indie Awards

Celebrate the power of small things to create revolutionary changes in our economy and environment!

A Program of One PacificCoast Foundation in partnership with East Bay Express

oaklandindieawards.com

Thursday
MAY
31ST
2012

6:30 – 10:30pm

Kaiser Center 300 Lakeside Drive

Tickets on sale now for $10 – Oakland's own delicious food, included!!

6:00 AWARDS CEREMONY

hosted by Glynn Washington of Snap Judgment **Lakeside Theater**

6:30 – 10:30pm PARTY

Rooftop Garden & Lakeview Terrace

Celebrate Oakland's Indie Spirit

Check out the winners of the coveted awards like Oakland Soul, Greenie and Innovative newbies & more!

- A festive night under the stars overlooking the lake
- Delicious complimentary food and drink made here in Oakland
- Cash Bar – Local wine and beer
- Oaktown DIY Cupcake bar by Angel Cake
- Oakland tunes spun by Oakland Faders
- Jazz by the Oaktown Jazz Workshop
- Live Brazilian, Filipino, Japanese and African drumming
- A life-size Polaroid photo booth by Visual Verbs
- A live mural by Community Rejuvenation Project
- An Oakland-inspired revolutionary art show curated by the Joyce Gordon Gallery
- Learn to Curl with the Bay Area Curling Club
- The People's Bazaar full of Oakland's own businesses and artisans

Thanks, Oakland! We received over 200 nominations for local businesses and artists that YOU THINK enrich our city this year and have won your hearts! Come celebrate with them and find out who won at the party!

THE INDIE AWARDS celebrate the revolutionary idea that we can improve our economy, our environment, and our quality of life through simply daily financial decisions such as choosing to shop with locally-owned businesses and local artists.

ABOUT ONE PACIFICCOAST BANK

OUR MISSION

The Mission of One PacificCoast Bank, FSB, is to build prosperity in our communities through beneficial banking services delivered in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
CDFI Certified Bank

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is of a banking industry that is fair to the person with the least bargaining power, provides access to financial services for all our communities, particularly the traditionally underserved, results in the long-term prosperity of responsible consumers, promotes financial system stability, and contributes to the sustainability of the environmental commons. We call this vision beneficial banking.

ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION

One PacificCoast Foundation engages in charitable and educational activities to increase financial literacy, stimulate community development, help eliminate discrimination, encourage affordable housing, and alleviate economic distress within low-income communities.

A UNIQUE STRUCTURE TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

One PacificCoast Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, maintains the rights to the economic benefits of One PacificCoast Bank. This means that any profits from the bank go back to the foundation to build the prosperity of our local communities!

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND ARTISTS

One PacificCoast offers several products and programs to support small businesses and local artists. The bank is focused on helping businesses and nonprofits create jobs and provide services in the community by providing loans, accounts, and money management services. The foundation provides technology, marketing, and other services to businesses and artists through the Oakland Indie Awards, Oakland Unwrapped! Online Marketplace, and the Oakland Business Assistance Center website.

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

One PacificCoast supports individuals and families through personal checking and savings accounts designed to serve a range of customers, from those new to banking (Fair Start ATM) to those wanting their deposits to help build strong, sustainable communities (EcoEarnings Checking and OPCB Friends & Supporters). To help build the financial strength of our communities, we offer financial education, lead community initiatives on financial capacity-building and have recently developed the Pal Loan, an emergency loan program designed to help individuals through a financial crisis while building their credit and their savings.

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

One PacificCoast is deeply committed to sustainability through our products, services and operations. Through our business lending, we intentionally support key sectors that we feel are key for sustainability in our communities, including Renewable Energy, Specialty Agriculture, Green Building, and Low-Income Housing. We use the principles of Natural Step to guide ourselves and our customers in terms of social and environmental outcomes, including recycling and waste prevention, sustainable purchasing, and the built environment. Our Pacific Northwest offices have been built using LEED standards and our Oakland offices (bank and foundation) are certified through the Bay Area Green Business program.

ONE PACIFICCOAST BANK

1438 Webster St. Suite 100 | Oakland, CA 94612
www.opcb.com | 510.550.8400

ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION

1438 Webster St. Suite 101 | Oakland, CA 94612
www.onepcf.org | 510.663.2253

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Erin Kimmerling
Program Officer

Andrea Walker
Executive Program Assistant

Trina Barton
Events Director

Rosie Dudley
Events Assistant

Kathryn Swiontny
Program Manager

Jack Cohen
Program Manager

ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Kaschnick
Tom Steyer
Kat Taylor
Martin Weinstein
Salvador Menjivar
Rolena Wilkins
Cynthia A. Parker
Rick Holliday

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Dowell Stoll, President & Chief Development Officer
Stan Kellough, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Fleske, Chief Lending Officer
Russell Haycock, Chief Credit Officer
Randell Leach, Deputy Chief Credit Officer
DeAnna Young, Regional President, Pacific Northwest
Jann Wallach, SVP & Compliance Officer
Madison [illegible], SVP & Controller

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Andy Fremder
Rocky Fried
Jim Saavedra
Dave Stoll
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Kat Taylor
Robert Townsend

ABOUT THE EAST BAY EXPRESS

WWW.EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

If one mayor represented all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties that person s 2 5 million constituents would live in the country s fourth largest city And just as these East Bay counties are very different from the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area the *East Bay Express* is a very different paper From the international populations that make Oakland and Richmond so dynamic to the ideological diversity that separates Berkeley from Walnut Creek our readers are united by their love of a region that s second to nowhere in beauty livability intellectual firepower and cosmopolitan charm

Every week the *Express* provides these well-educated world travelers the only medium dedicated exclusively to them From our authoritative cover stories to our in depth local reporting arts and dining coverage to the area s most comprehensive weekly calendar the *East Bay Express* has been this vibrant region s leading voice since 1978

A Commitment to Our Indies

In addition to our commitment to quality reporting, the *East Bay Express* s also a national leader in the localization movement supporting independent businesses and artists and spreading the word about why it s important to do so Currently, the *East Bay Express* is featuring a weekly Think Indie full page ad campaign highlighting locally owned businesses The *Express* s also active in supporting Oakland Grown the Sustainable Business Alliance and Buy Local Berkeley through donated ads sponsorships partnerships and volunteer time As an independent business based in Oakland the *Express* is highly active in the business community banks locally, donates to numerous local nonprofits and chooses local indie vendors when purchasing The *East Bay Express* is a proud partner in producing the 6th Annual Oakland Indie Awards

oakland grown
independent & Locally Owned

EAST BAY EXPRESS
620 3rd Street Oakland, CA 94607

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Congratulations Indies
Nominees and Winners!

Brightpath Capital Partners
dedicated to serving
West Coast impact
entrepreneurs and ventures

blu HOMES

SUNGEVITY
SOLAR HOME SPECIALISTS

ecologic
packaging the earth can live with

One Kaiser Plaza #650
Oakland CA

brightpathcapitalpartners.com

RISING HIGH

Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass congratulates all of the Oakland-based businesses and artists recognized by the Oakland Indie Awards for rising high

COBLENTZ,
PATCH, DUFFY
& BASS LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR SPENDING!

GET INSPIRATION, LEARN THE BENEFITS, AND FIND EASY STEPS FOR MOVING YOUR MONEY.

BANK CONSCIOUSLY

COMMUNITY BANKING INITIATIVE BY THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE: WWW.NEWRULES.ORG/BANKING

TOP 5 REASONS TO CHOOSE A COMMUNITY BANK OR CREDIT UNION

(FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE)

1. Get the Same Services at Lower Cost
2. Put Your Money to Work Growing Your Local Economy
3. Keep Decision Making Local
4. Back Institutions that Share a Commitment to Your Community
5. Support Productive Investment, Not Gambling

7 SIMPLE STEPS TO MOVE YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT

(FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE)

1 OPEN YOUR NEW ACCOUNT
In most cases, you should be able open a checking account with an initial deposit of $25 to $100. At a credit union you'll also become a member and co-owner at the same time.

2 ORDER NEW CHECKS AND AN ATM/DEBIT CARD
These typically arrive within 1 to 2 weeks. You should also consider applying for a credit card from your new local bank or credit union at the same time.

3 ASK YOUR EMPLOYER TO REROUTE YOUR DIRECT DEPOSIT
When you open your new account ask the bank or credit union for a direct deposit authorization form that includes your new account information. Give this form to your employer and anyone else who makes direct deposits to your account.

4 CONTACT COMPANIES THAT DIRECT DEBIT YOUR ACCOUNT
Using your last bank statement make a list of any businesses that you've authorized to directly debit your account. Ask your new bank or credit union for an automatic payments authorization form that includes your new account information. Send this to the businesses on your list.

5 SET-UP ONLINE BILL PAYING FOR YOUR NEW ACCOUNT
If you like to pay bills online set up bill payment information for your new account. Also stop any automatic recurring payments you have established through your old account.

6 CLOSE YOUR OLD ACCOUNT
Once you have started receiving direct deposits into your new account and are sure that there are no outstanding checks or automatic debits that need to clear close your old account. Warning: do not just withdraw the last dollar and assume the account will fade away on its own. Your old big bank may start charging you fees for having an empty or inactive checking account. Instead, follow the bank's procedure for closing out the account.

7 ENJOY YOUR NEW LOCAL BANKING RELATIONSHIP!

INVEST CONSCIOUSLY

Most retirement and investment options offer at least a few socially responsible choices. Check on your 401k or retirement fund if you have one – *Does your provider offer socially responsible investments?*

WHAT IS YOUR MONEY SUPPORTING RIGHT NOW?
Talk to local financial advisors who specialize in socially responsible investing – the Bay Area has several. They can help you tailor your investing to match your values. For example there are funds that can stay in the state to invest locally, invest in socially responsible businesses, focus on environmental causes, align with your faith and more.

Find East Bay socially responsible financial advisers from the Bay Area Green Business Program. www.greenbiz.ca.gov/ShopGreenAC.html

CONSIDER INVESTING IN A COMMUNITY LOAN FUND OR VENTURE CAPITAL FUND
These community funds support the revitalization of low income communities. These funds support community development and allow people to make investments in local activities that contribute to a healthy local economy such as businesses that create jobs in the community or affordable housing initiatives. More info at www.communityinvest.org

INDIE AWARDS 2012 CATEGORIES

To be eligible for an Indie Award, a nominee must be an Oakland based, for profit, locally owned, independent business or an artist that lives or has a studio in Oakland Winners from the previous three years are not eligible to win again.

KHALIL SHAHEED OAKLAND SOUL AWARD

represents the soul, the essence and the style of Oakland, this business or artist embraces diversity & creativity, has confidence in their individuality, helps their brothers & sisters, and has no pretensions

RIPPLE EFFECT

supports other local businesses and artists by "shopping local" for their supplies and services, creating an economic ripple effect as money circulates within the community

INNOVATIVE NEWBIE

An Innovative Newbie has opened in the last three years and excites and inspires you because of a creative new idea, perspective, or solution they are sharing with the world

GREENIE

Is our environmental hero, immersed in sustainable practices, such as creating or selling new items from used materials, using energy efficient appliances, composting, reducing usage of toxic products, or reducing waste

SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE ROCKSTAR

Incorporates positive social change into their mission, operations, or measures of success They use creative approaches to address community economic, and environmental issues. They give back to the community through their products, services, operations and employee practices.

MIKE MCPHERSON PILLAR AWARD

is an Oakland business or artist that has been around forever, persevering through the good and the bad, mentoring newbies, preserving our city's history, the artist everyone loves, or the classic spot "you have to go to" when visitors come to town

INDIE AWARDS 2012 JUDGES

Annalee Allen
Oakland Tours Program, City of Oakland

Chanda Jones
Executive Director Financial Wellness Center

Conway Jones
Advisory Board Member, One PacificCoast Bank

Danielle Fox
Executive Director Oakland Art Murmur

Dorothy Lazard
Librarian, Oakland Public Library

Echo Schneider
Citizen Journalist

Elinor Buchen
Policy Analyst, Councilmember Jane Brunner

Erick Swenson
Director of Fundraising and Communication, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation

Jody Colley
Publisher East Bay Express

John Bailey
Executive Director Workforce Investment Board, City of Oakland

Kathleen Harris
Program Officer, Marin Community Foundation

LaNiece Jones
Principal, LA Jones & Associates

Margo Dunlap
Executive Director Pro Arts

Margo Mercedes Rivera-Weiss
Community Outreach Manager Art Gallery Curator, Women's Cancer Resource Center

Margot Prado
Business Development/Economic Planner, City of Oakland

Maria Gastelumendi
Owner The Rising Loafer

Marie Deleris
Owner Entrez! Open House

Melissa Rosengard
Director of Institutional Advancement, Chabot Space & Science Center

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Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer, One PacificCoast Bank

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Jill M Kunishima
Development and Marketing Manager Lincoln Child Center

Marc Philpart
Senior Project Associate PolicyLink

Thomas Vanderheiden
SVP Relationship Manager One PacificCoast Bank

Viola Gonzales
CEO, Anewamerica

Zachary Petry
Region Director, Youth Business America

Mona Shah
Director Oakland Asian Cultural Center

Anne Campbell Washington
Chief of Staff, Mayor Jean Quan, City of Oakland

2012 KHALIL SHAHEED OAKLAND SOUL AWARD NOMINEES

17 Jewels Salon and Spa
38th Notes
American Steel Studios
Ancestral Apothecary
Annalee Allen
Arizmendi Bakery
Awaken Cafe
Bakery El Sol
Beer Revolution
Being Daring Coaching
Bells and Whistles
Besto Pesto
Betti Ono Gallery
Bittersweet Cafe
Brown Couch Cafe
Brown Sugar Kitchen
B-Side BBQ
Cassandra Lopez
Chastity Hinson
CK Gallery
Community Rejuvenation Project
Curtis Jermany
Dope Only
ElTyna McCree
Eric Murphy
Farmer Joe's
Feelmore 510
Flying Yoga
Head Designs
Helen Krayenhoff
Holistic Veterinary Care
Ise Lyfe
James and the Giant Cupcake
Jill McLennan
J's Creations
Juniper Tree
Keith "K Dub" Williams
Kelly's Corner
La Borinquena Mexicatessen
Lakeshore Natural Foods
Lucina's Kitchen
Mary Lonergan
Marzano
Media Enterprise Alliance
MyGroove Design Inc.
Namaste Yoga & Wellness
Nicolas Bearde
Nieves Cinco De Mayo
NIMBY
Oakland Acupuncture Project
Oakland Faders
Oakland Floats
Oakland Public Conservatory of Music
Oakland Warthogs Youth Rugby
Oaklandish
Oakollectiv
O'Lover Hats
People's Grocery
Picán
Pietisserie
popuphood
Reenie Raschke
Roberto Gastelumendi

ckridge Family Chiropractic
dy' s Can't Fail Cafe
rabek Images
vemere Market
rvani Productions
ow & Tell Concept Shop
mething For Your
ul Catering
uley Vegan
oiled Boutique
e Chairman
Spoken Words
e Layover
usic Bar & Art Lounge
e New Easy Lounge
E PEOPLE
e Uptown Nightclub
a Tamale
nye Neal Madison
e Rising Loafer
fe & Bakery
ban Indigo
ypoint Real Estate Group

012 INNOVATIVE EWBIE OMINEES

th Street Collective
tual Café
nerican Steel Studios
thony Daley
valen Café
ck to the Roots
tti One Gallery
tersweet Cafe
e Healthy Honey Shop
own Couch Café
Gallery
ssic Cars West
secha
8tive Class
tting Edge Capital
bbie Does Cakes
uble Dutch Sweets
ologic Brands
elmore 510
nsHome Media
lmore Vintage & Treasures
ven Restaurant & Bar
art & Soul Center of Light
listic Veterinary Care

House Kombucha
James and the Giant Cupcake
Juniper Tree
Just My Neighbors
Kelly's Corner
King's Boxing
Kristina Wolf Designs
Lee Krasnow
Little Shop Artisan Box
Marzano
Miette
Monkey Forest Road
Namaste Yoga & Wellness
Oakland Acupuncture Project
Oakland Floats
Oakflectiv
Pacific Brewing Lab
People's Eye Photography
Pietisserie
Reenie Raschke
Roy Two Thousand
s+s gastro grub
Sarabek Images
Scott Alexander
Scream Sorbet
Sean Leake
Show and Tell Concept Shop
Simply Green Day Spa
Souley Vegan
Table Tableaux
Tech Liminal
The Perfect Sidekick
The Rising Loafer Cafe & Bakery
Torrey Pines Bank
Urban Indigo
Waypoint Real Estate Group
Youth Sports Nation

2012 SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE ROCKSTAR NOMINEES

510media
All Things Home Organizing
Automania Studios
Business Emergency Safety Training
Caleigh Ken'yon Brewer
Chop Bar
Dale Golden

Delane's Natural Nail Care
Eastside Cultural Center
Feelmore 510
Green Planet 21
Green Ventures
Hogg Style Records, Inc.
INNA Jam
James and the Giant Cupcake
KaMasaJé BioDynamics & Massage
King's Boxing Gym
LA Jones & Associates
Lakeshore Natural Foods
Lee Krasnow
Marc Bamuthi Joseph
Montclair Veterinary Hospital
Noble Cafe
Oakland Digital (ODALC)
Oakland Food Connection
Oakland School for the Arts
Oaklandish People's Grocery
Progressive Asset Management Oakland
Resource Development Associates
Revolution Foods
s+s gastro grub
Scream Sorbet
Steep Hill Lab
The Rising Loafer Café & Bakery
Torrey Pines Bank
Uptown Body & Fender
VMA Security
Waypoint Real Estate Group
Yoga College of India

2012 MIKE MCPHERSON PILLAR AWARD NOMINEES

A Travel Moment
Alan Leon
Annalee Allen
AV Consultants
Bakesale Betty
Best Music Company
Blue Moon Productions
Brown Sugar Kitchen
Burma Superstar
CDA Consulting Group

Everett & Jones Barbeque
Farmer Joe's
Funky Soul Step Records
God's Gym
Gondola Servizio
Grand Lake Theatre
Head Designs
Heinhold's First &Last Chance Saloon
Irish Monkey Cellars
Jahez Enterprise Group
Jill McLennan
Joyce Gordon Gallery
KaMasaJé BioDynamics & Massage
Kassenhoff Growers
Lakeshore Natural Foods
Laurel Book Store
Montclair Veterinary Hospital
Mountain Yoga
NIMBY
Oakland Faders
Pacific Coast Brewing Company
Paws & Claws
Picán
Red Oak Realty
Resource Development Associates
Rosewood House
Snow White Preschool
Spoiled Boutique
Taylor's Sausage
The New Easy Lounge
Underground Treasures
Uptown Body & Fender
Urban Indigo

2012 RIPPLE EFFECT NOMINEES

Aztlan Beautification Movement
Balls and Whistles
Betti Ono Gallery
Bittersweet Café
Brown Sugar
Chthonic Theater
CommonWealth Cafe & Pub House
Debbie Does Cakes
Doc's of the Bay
Entred Open House

Eric Murphy
Feelmore 510
Hal's Original NY Hot Dog Cart
House Kombucha
J's Creations
Joyce Gordon Gallery
KaMasaJé BioDynamics & Massage
Lea Sweet
Lee Krasnow
Little Shop Artisan Box
Mandela Marketplace
Meagan Reelitz Designs
Noble Cafe
Oakland Venue Management
Taco Grill Taqueria & Pozoleria
Tech Liminal
The Layover Music Bar & Art Lounge
Urban Indigo
Yoga College of India

2012 GREENIE NOMINEES

Ashara Ekundayo
Awaken Cafe
Back to the Roots
BaDesign
Bike Man Dan
bylee design
Eco Performance Builders
Green Planet 21
hatch
Juniper Ridge
Kristi Holohan
La Borinquena Mexicatessen
Mannequin Madness
Noble Cafe
Outdoor Afro
Rebooty
Reenie Raschke
Scream Sorbet
Simply Green Day Spa
Tara's Organic Ice Cream
Wisdom by Wisdom Natural Soaps

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Jennifer Moses & Ron Beller/ Ed Mentor • Matson Logistics
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OAHPI is proud to be a supporter of
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6th Annual
Oakland Indie Awards

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Preservation Initiatives, Inc.

The Community Leadership Fund
together we can.

Helping businesses do good through the power of many.

EAST BAY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Learn more at www.eastbaycf.org and join us today

De Domenico Building 200 Frank H Ogawa Plaza Oakland CA 94612

SOUL MECHANIX

Soul Mechanix is proud to be performing at the 6th Annual Oakland Indie Awards!

Soul Mechanix blends groove-based jazz improv and progressive funk drawing from a diverse universe of influences. What better way to get at the Mechanix of the soul than through music?

Featuring Grant Swartz – Guitar/Vocals, David Goodlett – Guitar, Vernon Hall – Bass, Joey Truso – Drums/Vocals, Will Sap – Keys, Luq Man – Vocals, David Crenshaw – Vocals and Lattance Love with special guests.

OAKLAND NATIVES
give back
Nyeisha DeWitt, Ed.D

Congratulations

TO THE
OAKLAND INDIE AWARDS 2012
FINALISTS AND NOMINEES

[illegible] August 2012
Back to School Rally ca 510 917 1477
[illegible] www.oaklandnatives.org

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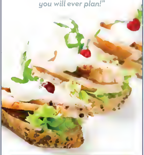

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Oakland, California

Advanced Processing

CALIFORNIA WASTE
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Recycling Specialists

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- Commercial recycling
- Material Processing
- Waste reduction program
- Environmental Stewardship
- A top 50 waste company as recognized by Waste Age Magazine
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The pan-fried slices of eggplant were topped with an intensely spicy tomato sauce. Chris Duffey

NOT YOUR TYPICAL CURRY HOUSE

Berkeley's Ajanta has earned its loyal following with a creative, ever-changing menu of regional Indian specialties.

By Luke Tsai

I'm the son of thrifty Chinese immigrants — to nonfoodies who rarely ate out. The few times we did go out for dinner, it was almost always to a Chinese restaurant. Anything else was a step into the vast unknown.

So even as an adult, I've always found it a stressful task to pick the restaurant for a Tsai family night out. My folks enjoy good food, but — God bless them — they like what they like, and a single bad experience might provoke sweeping generalizations about an entire cuisine. Then I end up having to argue that, no, Mexican food isn't all beans and cheese. And, gee, I don't know why Russians eat so many potatoes.

But Indian food? I hope you can forgive my parents for thinking there's little more to the cuisine than "curry," that catch-all term — maybe two or three kinds, each a slightly different shade of brown. Rice, bread, a few cubes of meat drowning in a pool of sauce: That's it.

Devoted food evangelist that I am, I'd like to bring my parents to Ajanta. With its fancy light fixtures, white tablecloths, and abundant silverware (a big fork and a little fork in every place setting), the North Berkeley institution would be the most elegant Indian restaurant they've ever patronized. More importantly, the food at Ajanta is as refined as it is varied — no two dishes alike.

The restaurant is the creation of chef-owner Lachu Moorjani, a self-taught chef who left India and moved to the Bay Area in the 1970s to pursue a career as an engineer. Like many immigrants at that time, Moorjani found the local Indian restaurants to be disappointing — every place served mediocre versions of the same dishes. So for years he focused on learning recipes and honing his cooking skills.

Finally, in 1987, Moorjani opened a small restaurant in Berkeley called New Delhi Junction, which he sold to open Ajanta in 1993. From the beginning, he decided to focus not on a generic repertoire of curries but rather on harder-to-find dishes from all over India. In any given month you might not see a *chana masala* or an *aloo gobi* on a *combo* on the menu. Instead, the bulk of the offerings consist of a rotating list of regional specialties, with three or four new items swapped in each month.

During our first visit to Ajanta, my wife and I ordered the chef's tasting menu ($26 per person, $23 for a vegetarian version), an option Moorjani introduced a few months ago. You get mini portions of about eight different dishes — it's a great way to try a wide swath of the menu.

So we had tandoori asparagus, which were lightly blackened and coated with spice — an enjoyable change of pace from the oven-roasted versions that are ubiquitous on restaurant menus this time of year. We also had *baingan jaan* — slices of thick-skinned eggplant that were pan-fried until soft and topped with an intensely spicy tomato sauce, which played off the eggplant's natural luxurious sweetness. And we had some of the best naan we've ever eaten: Incredibly light, yet charred and bubbly like a wood-fired pizza.

Meanwhile, the chicken pistachio korma — a dish from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh — was the only meat-in-a-puddle-of-sauce out of the whole bunch, but what a sauce: complex and barely sweet. (This one will be coming off the menu soon, so get it while it lasts: Once an old dish is knocked off the menu, Moorjani won't bring it back for at least two years.)

Perhaps best of all was a fish course called *seyal machi*, an adaptation of a family recipe from Moorjani's native state of Sindh (now part of Pakistan): perfectly cooked ling cod fillets served over an addictive sauce made with lush caramelized onions and various spices.

One of the criticisms of Americanized Asian restaurants is that every dish comes in more or less the same sauce. But Moorjani is a kind of sauce connoisseur, creating a unique concoction to complement almost every dish: a spicy-sweet cashew-yogurt sauce to dip your asparagus in; a refreshing mint-cilantro chutney to scoop up with excellent cumin-flecked *papadum* (thin wafers made of lentil flour).

My second visit to the restaurant was just as good. Highlights from the à la carte menu included the *dakshini gosht*, a braised lamb dish from South India that had all the richness and depth of a good beef bourguignon. And the Hyderabad-style chicken *biryani* (rice with chicken, cashews, raisins, and caramelized onions) was baked the traditional way inside a sealed container, resulting in a surprisingly light casserole — not the greasy fried rice that often passes for *biryani*.

To be fair, though, not everyone will love Ajanta. For starters, some might not find the food spicy enough. During my two visits I tried the "medium" and "high medium" spice levels and (aside from the eggplant) found them both fairly restrained — quite to my taste, actually. Even the "hot" level might not appease the more spice-tolerant.

Also, the prices at Ajanta are higher than the average Indian hole-in-the-wall, in part a result of Moorjani's use of organic produce and sustainably raised meat. But given the labor-intensive nature of many of the dishes, I didn't find the prices unreasonable.

Ironically (or perhaps not), Moorjani says many of the people who end up feeling confused or unhappy with Ajanta's menu are his Indian customers, who always expect to be able to order the usual curry house classics. But Ajanta has never been about that. Rather, Moorjani says, he wants to show off "the diversity that the Indian subcontinent has to offer."

Does that make Ajanta more or less "authentic"? I won't hazard a guess. All I know is that if I ever do bring my parents to Ajanta, I have a suspicion their view of Indian food might never be the same. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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WHAT THE FORK

TOUR AN URBAN FARM

From goats to beehives to fruit trees, the Institute of Urban Homesteading's farm tours show what's possible in the city

By Luke Tsai

A visit to K. Ruby Blume's backyard garden is like stepping into a lush vegetal paradise — not what you'd expect to find hidden away in a decidedly urban working-class hood in North Oakland.

Viewed from the street, Blume's modest pistachio-green house is unremarkable in appearance — a bit cheerier-looking than its neighbors, perhaps. But walk through a side gate and the yard opens up to a garden lover's dream: flowers everywhere you look, eighteen perfectly pruned fruit trees, and so many different kinds of edible green things — growing on the ground, along the fence, in planters, and up wire support frames — I couldn't write them all down.

Blume's Oakland hideaway is just one of seven urban farms that will be open to tours next Saturday, June 9, as part of an annual event sponsored by Blume's Institute of Urban Homesteading. The tours will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will start every hour on the hour at each site.

For Blume, tending to her 4,800-square-foot lot — which she's dubbed Bogart Gardens — isn't just a hobby; it's a calling. After fifteen-plus years spent running an organization that did puppet theater activism, Blume burned out. While taking a break from the nonprofit world, she did a lot of gardening and planned her next move. She thought: What would change the world? And what would be sustainable for her?

The answer, it turned out, was sharing knowledge — the kind of practical, back-to-the-basics knowledge that has been all but lost in a modern world where "a lot of things are designed to dumb everybody down." So in 2008, Blume founded a school called the Institute of Urban Homesteading, which now offers dozens of classes (held mostly at sites in Oakland and Berkeley) not just on urban gardening, but also on beekeeping, animal husbandry, and assorted DIY skills like food preservation and soap-making.

Blume started doing the tours last year in response to overwhelming public interest. She charges a small fee — a tax-deductible $30 advance payment for access to all seven farms, or $5 (or whatever you can afford) paid at each site. In exchange, the hosts show off their site's unique features and give visitors a chance to seek advice about their own projects.

Folks who visit Blume's garden will have a chance to see her two alternative beehives (designed to be less intrusive for the bees), her "bathtub bog" (a landscape feature that's irrigated with recycled laundry water), her container orchard, and her adorable litter of baby rabbits (which produce excellent compost, Blume explained, because they "double digest" their poop — eating it after it comes out the first time.)

According to Blume, a diverse mix of people attended the event last year: parents who wanted a fun activity for their toddlers, green thumb wannabes, and hard-core homesteaders. Her hope is that they all came away from each tour with specific ideas that might be implemented at their own homes.

"It opens possibilities to people," Blume said. "It serves as an inspiration point ... to show what's possible and what's appropriate in an urban setting."

Jeannie McKenzie and one of her goats. Luke Tsai

This year's participating sites range from a tiny goat farm in Glenview (where the goats can run up a ramp leading to their very own tree platform) to a North Berkeley "CSA-type" backyard micro-farm that grows enough food to feed five families.

Another tour site is Jeannie McKenzie's sprawling PineHaven Farm in the Oakland hills, where what I thought was a large dog wandering in front of the house turned out to be one of the four (exceedingly friendly) goats that McKenzie raises, along with several chickens. McKenzie also grows a variety of fruits and vegetables — many of them slightly exotic: cape gooseberries, goji berries, yacón, and oca (tubers that, according to McKenzie, taste like baked potatoes with sour cream).

For McKenzie, the tours have somewhat of a political purpose as well. They're a way for urban farmers to garner community support. While Berkeley's planning commission recently passed legislation that will permit residents to sell or donate fruits and vegetables grown on their own property, Oakland's regulations for urban agriculture are still a work in progress. According to McKenzie, the city's de facto policy is essentially complaint-based — she has one neighbor who files a complaint every day, presumably about the noise and the smell of the animals.

For the record, at least during my brief visit, the goats were remarkably quiet and not too-bad-smelling. An added bonus? Two of them are massively pregnant, which means if you go on the tour next week, you'll have a chance to see cute baby goats.

To read a description of each site, or to buy a $30 advance ticket (via Paypal), visit IUHOakland.com/events.html. Even if you only plan on touring one or two farms, you'll need to register for the event in order to get the specific location for each site. Send an email to iuh@sparkybeegirl.com with "Urban Farm Tours" in the subject line. Blume will respond with the addresses a week before the tours. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Indian Restaurants in Berkeley and Albany

Biryani House
[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-[illegible]. It's like your friendly neighborhood diner: a casual, clattery place where they grin when you come in — but with chana masala and free limitless chai instead of cheeseburgers and joe. One block from the UC campus, this is where you relax in a Mumbai-meets-Mayberry way: unjudged, unhipped-off, and (after ordering at the counter) rewarded with large portions of down-home delights. The signature dish is saffron-spiked biryani available as vegetarian, lamb, prawn, and chicken versions. It's a hardy counterpart to paneer tikka masala: tangy cloud-soft cheese cubes in a devastatingly velvety coral-red tomato-yogurt sauce. $

Breads of India
2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-7684; 948 Clay St., Oakland 510-834-7684. Daily specials at this popular but cramped pan-India restaurant include one lamb dish, one poultry dish, and two vegetarian curries, plus a tandoori treat. Other menu items change daily. The spotlight, surprise surprise, is on breads: naan, stuffed parathas, and the like. Claustrophobic diners: don't say you weren't warned. $-$$

Café Raj
1158 Solano Ave., Albany 510-524-9667. Dressed-down surroundings focus on the ideas and the well lit, luring families who bask in the boundless hospitality of a chef and staff who smile, smile, smile. The rich North Indian and Pakistani dishes are as fresh as the decor and spiced on the light side; breads — especially naan — are a favorite. Skip the tandoori meats, though. The chef shops every day so you don't have to. $-$$

Chaat Cafe
1902 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-1431. This cafe's choose eatery serves up delicious lunch and dinner specials on a rotating basis plus a menu of chaat, curries, and the ever-popular chicken plate. Almost all dishes are accompanied by the best naan you've ever eaten. Tip: Go before 5 p.m. and pay the lunch price. $

Everest Cafe
1645 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-4425. The bright, invigorating flavors of Nepal star at this friendly little Solano Avenue hideaway. In addition to delights like *momo* (steamed dumplings), *thukpa* (noodle soup) and *bhuteko tarkari* (stewed okra and onion), there are several tantalizing Indian preparations on the menu: the samosa chaat, potato naan, and tender smoky tandoor chicken are especially worthwhile. The desserts are available, but the mango lassi is as sweet and creamy as a milkshake. Good selection of Tibetan beers. $-$$

Flavors of India
2011 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-638-3461; 3278 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-268-8957; 1357 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6800. Neighborhood North Indian with freshness, bite, and tandoori wraps decent enough to serve as off-night alternatives to the megaburrito. The prime dining room may be the blandest thing about this little place. Opt for spicy, and a dish such as veggie masala or chicken saag can deploy the kind of heat that'll keep your water glass in constant play. The lunch menu is limited, but it's packed with bargains — sweet relief for a block where a burger costs well over ten bucks. $$

Hamro Aangan
856 San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-524-2220. This homey restaurant with its colorfully patterned ecru tablecloths and well-used oil paintings depicting Nepal's lofty peaks sports a palm-fringed, umbrella-tabled open-air courtyard out back. For the homesick Himalayans and stranded-at-sea-level trekkers among Hamro Aangan's already loyal league of regulars, the documentaries that owner Bishnu Bhandari sometimes screens here stoke high-altitude memories fed by generous portions of well-cooked Indian standards. These include vegetable *biryani*, tandoori chicken, and rosewater-perfumed *gulab jamun* along with hearty, humble, and (usually) less expensive, packingly hot Nepalese favorites such as *kukhura ko tikka*, momos, and *aloo ko achar*. $

India Chaat and Sweets
2245 University Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1950. The lunch buffet is small and spotty, and the dinner menu could use some work, but this restaurant does all right by its two specialties, *chaat* (snacks) and sweets. Highlights include creamy potato croquettes topped with a spicy chickpea purée, airy and sugar-drenched *gulab jamun*, and dosas, large rice-and-lentil crepes stuffed with spiced mashed potatoes. Don't be scared away by the exterior: the restaurant is colorful and brightly lit. $

Indus Village
1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-549-3595. Connected to the market of the same name, Indus Village specializes in Pakistani street food served in a bright, carnivalesque room. Sure, you can find chicken tikka masala on the menu, but also *achaar gosht*, a chicken curry starring with pickles and whole spices, and *kunna gosht*, a lamb shank simmered in a clay pot. Quench the fire with puffy bubbly naan pulled straight from the clay ovens, brushed with melted butter and rushed to your table. $

Kabana
1106 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3355. Kabana could use an interior decorator. Who, after all, decided that green light made the food more appealing? But don't tell any of the cooks to renovate the food. This Pakistani restaurant serves robust, spicy curries and stir-fries that'll put hair on your chest. The goat curry and the Karahi chicken are real highlights, as are the puffy, crispy tandoor-cooked breads. $

Khana Peena
2880 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-528-2409; 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3200. Most of us are familiar with Punjabi food — 90 percent of "Indian" restaurants in the US specialize in it — but Khana Peena has a few new tricks up its sleeve. Visitors to the sleekest Indian restaurant in the East Bay will find all the standards on the revolving menu along with new delights. The griddled breads (*paratha*, *prashar*) top the tandoor-baked naan, and the zingy, fresh curries beat the overroasted ones time after time. $$

Mehak Indian Cuisine
2490 [illegible], Berkeley 510-841-6818. [illegible] Mehak's relaxed, simple menu in your sleep: lamb, chicken, and seafood curries, along with tandoori meats, biryanis, a goodly selection of vegetarian entrées, and breads — all respectfully prepared. But on the days when the Punjabi cooks pull out the stops and offer regional specials like Punjabi lamb masala and gobi tandoori, you'll find something special indeed. $

The Mint Leaf
1513 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-54[illegible]. The family that operates Khana Peena on Solano Avenue used to operate the Taste wine bar at this location. Reinvented with an Indian menu and aiming to convince American diners that Indian food really does go well with wine, it still features its main attraction, the wine machine: a gleaming metallic column ringed with bottles. Patrons insert wine cards to release their choices from an impressive international selection one ounce at a time. The spinach and lentil side dishes are sparingly earthy and as colorful as stained glass. Dishes such as the Karahi chicken and *malai kofta* are velvety and complex — although too spicy for some. $$

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

American Oak

2323 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]. At American Oak, an unobtrusive whiskey bar on one of the Park Street corridor's quieter nooks, Chef Gabe Cortez serves up omelets and wagyu burgers and wood-fired pizzas — fun, approachable gastropub fare that matches, and often outshines, its acclaimed counterparts in Oakland and across the Bay. The menu, which changes each month, is a mix of updated American comfort food and French bistro fare. Stick to the items cooked in the 900-degree wood-burning oven and you can't go wrong: beautifully blistered pizzas and roasted chicken with super-crisp skin and endlessly juicy meat. Contributing to the restaurant's small-town charm, treats from nearby vendors like Feel Good Bakery and Tucker's Ice Cream are featured prominently. $$-$$$

Nature Vegetarian Restaurant

[illegible] Franklin St., Oakland, 510-838-9688. The Chinese have a long and comfortable history of mock meat consumption, harkening back to food served to alms-givers at Buddhist temples a thousand years ago. And diners craving vegetarian versions of their favorite Chinese dishes would be hard-pressed to find a better option than Nature Vegetarian Restaurant, where chef-owner Jun Liu, a devout Buddhist himself, makes all of the restaurant's gluten- and soy-based meat substitutes in-house. Menu highlights include the spectacularly crispy sesame chicken and stuffed eggplant that's batter-fried, shaped like a whole fish, and carved tableside. During off-peak hours, vegetarian versions of traditional dim sum items (meat pork buns, siu mai, etc.) are served. The dining room is clean and pleasant, and service is polite and reasonably English-friendly. $-$$

Divino

640 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5200. For a place that prides itself on serving "seasonal and local comfort food" — all those of-the-moment buzzwords, with gluten-free pasta to boot — Berkeley's Divino is refreshingly devoid of self-importance. Executive chef Jean Gallagher serves unfussy Italian fare in a warm and welcoming setting. As a general rule of thumb, the simplest menu items tend to be best. Highlights include the fresh pastas, the *suppli* (fried risotto balls), and the homemade Italian sodas. The pastas and pizzas all come in both regular and gluten-free versions, and many dishes can be prepared vegan upon request. The Sunday brunch menu, meanwhile, is more classic American than Italian. Oh, and there's this: Divino might just be the kid-friendliest nicer restaurant in Berkeley. $$-$$$

Homeroom Racing Cafe

1303 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-865-1257. Kids and hobbyists go a lane toward the miniaturized Grand Prix racetrack that fills the back room while hungry diners dig into chef Arisa Saengchan's homestyle Thai cuisine up front. Saengchan's country-style Thai cooking isn't especially fancy or challenging to the Western palate, but it is abundant with herbs and aromatics, everything well-executed and freshly prepared. The papaya salad impresses with bright flavors while the herbaceous off-menu rice soup is the perfect sick person's food, especially if you're a cilantro lover. For something unique, try the spicy Thai-style burger, the kind of East-West mash-up you might imagine pulling off the grill at some Thai-American family's backyard barbecue. Don't forget to check out the slot-car racing in back — $5 buys fifteen minutes of fun. $

Wally's Cafe

[illegible] Emeryville, 510-[illegible]. Wally's Cafe is perfectly aligned to attract 90 percent of the East Bay's photo-snapping food blogosphere, with its obscure location tucked behind an Emeryville roadhouse-style dive bar, its free baklava and lentil soup with every order, and its sometimes-available secret menu prepared by Wally's Mexican wife. But the best reason to visit Wally's is simpler: solidly prepared, reasonably priced Lebanese and Greek cuisine, with some American stuff thrown in. $$

Priya Indian Cuisine

2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-[illegible]. At lunchtime, Priya serves a fairly standard mix of Northern and Southern Indian dishes, from aromatic masala dosas, crepes stuffed with spiced potatoes, to palak paneer. Their deluxe lunch buffet wins the real raves. The double-length steam table starts with veggie pakora and moves through spicy Indian fried rice and tandoori chicken legs into uncommon buffet fare like curried goat and rasam, a spicy tamarind soup. $-$$

Taste of the Himalayas

1700 Shattuck Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4963. The East Bay outpost of this popular mini-chain serves up impressive Nepalese, Tibetan, and Indian specialties in a lovely, tranquil setting. *Momos* (Tibetan steamed dumplings) make a delectable starter; entrée standouts include a lush, soul-stirring chicken vindaloo, tandoori lamb, shrimp and chicken served smoky and sizzling on a wooden platter, and a bountiful paella-like Himalayan biryani. The salmon curry and rice pudding are best avoided, but don't miss the rich, chewy naan bread and sweet, spicy mango chutney. $$

Udupi Palace

1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600. Vegetarian South Indian restaurants are few and far between in the East Bay, so it's lucky Udupi Palace is so good. This national mini-chain specializes in dozens of varieties of gigantic lacy dosas (rice and lentil flour crepes), *uttapams* (rice-flour frittatas), and wet, nutty curries redolent of coconut and kari leaves. For less than $10 you can order a South Indian thali: two platters covered with tiny bowls of curries, chutneys, starches, and desserts. Finish your meal with a *paan masala*, a betel leaf wrapped around candied spices and shredded coconut. $

Urbann Turbann

1870 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0000. Mere steps from UC Berkeley's North Gate, husband-and-wife team Aman and Chandler Mahal offer all-organic, cruelty-free, made-to-order wraps as big as bricks. Your choice of pillowy house-baked naan or dairy-free, whole-grain roti is rolled tightly around masala potatoes and salad greens plus your choice of a number of slightly Berkeleyized Indian classics including boneless Sonoma chicken marinated overnight in organic yogurt, then tandoor-cooked over an open flame. Oakland-bred Aman began tweaking his family's favorite Punjabi recipes while still a teenager; his Urbann Turbann pork vindaloo is inspired by his personal favorite eighteen-hour procedure for preparing barbecued pulled pork. Meatless fillings include Kerala *paneer*, mushroom *mattar*, and herbed seasonal vegetables. The fillings can also be had over brown rice in bowls, while Berkeley's real new bargain might be Urbann Turbann's $1 potato samosa. $ ●

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

Beer Revolution is pretty fantastic.

Ellen Cushing

LAST CALL

POPS ON HOPS

Beer Revolution: Fun for the whole family.

By Ellen Cushing

You know Beer Revolution, or at least you should: the dizzying selection, the endlessly knowledgeable but rarely snobby staff, the sunny street-side patio looking out onto the Buttercup Grill and the rest of Third Street, the near-constant crush of customers all smiling and drinking and laughing like unusually happy extras in an indie-movie bar scene. After just three years, the place already feels like an institution, at least among a certain swath of largely bearded and beer-loving Oaklanders.

My father is not bearded, but he is beer-loving, and he'd never been, so "Holy crap!" he said — he who taught me nearly everything I know about both beer and about revolutions, and who loves both with a lifelong devotion I can't even fathom — upon walking in for the first time last Thursday. It was the good kind of "holy crap!" I'm fairly certain.

Beer Revolution
464 3rd St., Oakland
510-452-4337 or
BeerRevolution.com
Hours: Mon.-Thur. noon-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. noon-11 p.m., Sun. noon-9 p.m.

The drawback to being an institution is that Beer Rev is easy to take for granted, but if you've never been before, it is, indeed, a pretty fantastic(al) place — dark and cool and clubby and positively cluttered with beer-related propaganda: vintage neon signs, dog-eared posters, old bumper stickers advertising boutique breweries with intriguing names and far-flung addresses. Barrels are repurposed as tables, kegs are stacked against the wall like set pieces, and near the bathroom, used, scratchy malt bags serve as wallpaper. If you look up, a garland of hops runs along the ceiling like tinsel. Taken together, it's a lot like drinking in some kind of secret clubhouse for a beer-fanatics society, or like what might've happened if Willy Wonka had come to his senses and realized that beer is way better than candy. Outside on the patio, it's a little less cluttered and a lot brighter, with big, umbrella-bedecked picnic tables, a fleet of adorable and very much-allowed dogs, and, on weekends, approximately one million like-minded people. (Business is so good, in fact, that the bar will be expanding next door sometime this summer or fall, according to co-owner Fraggle, with 23 taps and a German vegetarian menu — "just like the original, but with food.") Beer Rev is blatantly a beer-lovers' bar, a logical outgrowth of the Bay Area's craft-brewery scene — as its website professes, "only quality, non-mainstream beer is supported and served!" But somehow — maybe because of the staff, or the surprisingly diverse clientele, or just Oakland itself — it manages to defy the odds and feel welcoming to everyone, whether it's a pair of very-hip-but-also-very-middle-aged downtown Oakland office types, ID cards still hanging from their necks, or their twentysomething daughter. On a sunny afternoon, it becomes alarmingly easy to fantasize about spending the rest of your life here.

Listing the beers is pointless, not just because there are forty-some-odd on tap and hundreds more in coolers lining the walls, but because they change nearly constantly. Fraggle once told me that the bar's website can't even be expected to be reliably up-to-date, with kegs being replaced daily and sometimes hourly. But suffice it to say: I've been here at least one hundred times and have never been disappointed, and I wasn't on Thursday, nor were my parents.

We did what I always do, which is ask one of the aforementioned endlessly-knowledgeable but rarely snobby staff members for his or her advice and follow it blindly. We all ended up with some variation on the theme of hoppy and delicious, and sat outside on the patio among the movie extras and the dogs and the sunshine. My parents deemed the place "friendly," "impressive," "authentic," and possessing of an "overwhelming selection," which about sums things up. My dad made friends with the bouncer and affirmed his like of the place (though he did wish they had nachos). I tried to explain to my mother what a hipster is. All three of us drank our beers happily and quickly. My parents will be returning. ●

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

17th Street Food Pod With various District farm vendors on 17th Street, between Franklin Street and Broadway. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bites Off Broadway Featuring affordable and Oakland food from Tina Tamale, Fed's of the Bay, Mick's Oakland, Truck, Cecelia's Catering, Go Streatery, Winner of 2013 Pot of Place, and more. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 12, 510-684-0246. BitesOffBroadway.com. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland, 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Clay Street Food Trucks With Market/Dinner from Market on Clay Street, between 14th and 15th streets. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Gourmet Popcorn Make popcorn using fresh herbs, spices, and natural ingredients. Sat., June 2, 11 a.m.-noon. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

Market Whiskey Dinner With a five-course tasting menu prepared by Rising Star Executive Chef Josh Oakland, to pair with Whiskey-based Pioneers and Bourbon Distilling. Oakland, discuss his whiskey knowledge during Street Eats. June 5, 6:30 p.m., $75. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585, ParagonRestaurant.com.

Moot Bar Brewery With Belgian cooking seasonal & Asheville Wed., June 6, 6 p.m. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland, 510-452-2337. BeerRevolution.com.

Naughty Old Wine Tasting Wine and brown the shop's selection of produce goods. Sat., June 2, 6-10 p.m., $18, TheNaughtyOldWineTasting.Eventbrite.com. Rouge Me Boutique, 2711 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-9301.

Snow Park Food Pod With Dinner Dinner from vendors. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Snow Park, 1920 Harrison St., Oakland.

Splash Pad Food Truck With various District farm vendors Thursdays, 5-9 p.m. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Street Food Tuesdays With farm truck-inspired small plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, 5:30-10, 800-558-1268. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585, ParagonRestaurant.com.

District One Food Truck With Dinner District food produce Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland, 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Three Oakland Market With farm-fresh fare by local chefs, live jazz, a raffle, and more. A fundraiser for Three Squares, which runs cooking and nutrition classes for low-income Bay Area residents. Sun., June 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., $50-$100, BrownPaperTickets.com/event/231575. UC Berkeley Faculty Club, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-6000. Berkeley.edu.

Snow in the Bay Area With tastings of local wines, in partnership with Bay Area Urban Winery Tours. Call to RSVP. Sat., June 2, 2-6 p.m., $25-$30. McConaghy House, 18701 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-0223. HaywardAreaHistory.org.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Albany Farmers' Market With local, seasonal produce and Oakland foods. On Solano Avenue (between San Pablo District and Adams Street) starting June 6, Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

BAHIA Fresh Market Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-843-3184. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Market for Advancement, 1758 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-525-1463. BAHIAinc.com.

Bayfair Dinner Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

YFA Farm Fresh Dinner Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 2141 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-845-9010. BYAonline.org.

Francis Albor Farm Fresh Dinner Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3:45-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 510-981-5150. CI.Berkeley.CA.US.

Oakland Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, foods, Oakland, and more. Market WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-0829. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. at Fruitvale BART, Oakland, 510-534-6000. UnityCouncil.org.

District Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market hosts more than seventy producers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org. farmersmarket. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced fare from more 35 Market and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward, 510-583-4000. CI.Hayward.CA.US.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With producers selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a bakery, fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, and products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, nut butters, foods, Market fresh foods, and seasonal surprises. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-841-0601. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Colusa Circle at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from J&P Organic Farm and a youth-led business, local foods, called the Purple Lawn Café. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and 510-482-1188. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel District Farmers Market, MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Arlington Medical District Farmers' Market With produce and other products, sold by more than ten producers including Frog Farms, Alchemy Coffee Collective and more. Also Oakland produce accepted. Accepts WIC and EBT. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. North Oakland produce Market, Arlington Medical Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

North Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-250-2957. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market produce Oakland, produce, breads, oils and other organic foods, along with plenty of produce. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St. OaklandFarmersMarket.com/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With Oakland, produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked baked produce, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga, Market live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With other family grown fruit, live Oakland, flowers, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-6550. CI.Berkeley.CA.US/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12770.

Temescal Farmers' Market California produce Market offer Oakland, produce, other fresh and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, produce Market and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-9300. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Youth-Led Farm Stand The fresh farm foods, in the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood, features seasonal produce, from regional farmers and from urban gardens, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10739 MacArthur Blvd., produce, Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com. ●

PICK

Mead-Making Workshop

Humans have made alcoholic beverages from fermented honey to make wine for thousands of years. Learn how to do it yourself at "Makin' Mead," a workshop at the UC Botanical Garden (200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley) on Saturday, June 2. Robert MacKimmie of City Bees joins garden staff to demonstrate the basics and to offer advanced recipes for cyser (apple-and-honey wine), along with other treats. Each participant gets to sample the day's products and bring home a gallon jug of mead. 2 p.m. $40-$50. 510-643-2755 or BotanicalGarden.

STAND BY ME

Sweetness and love in Paris (*The Intouchables*) and in Kyushu (*I Wish*)

By Kelly Vance

Omar Sy plays Driss, caretaker for quadriplegic Philippe (François Cluzet) in *The Intouchables*.

It's easy to make a cynical diagram of Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano's *The Intouchables*: Take the basic premise of *Driving Miss Daisy* and move it to contemporary Paris. Change Miss Daisy into a rich quadriplegic white man. Turn her faithful driver into a tough young African immigrant ex-con from the housing projects. *Voilà!* Instant schmaltz.

But that would mean throwing away the grace notes and character phrasing, the comic timing, the little touches that can't be schematized, the things that give *The Intouchables*, predictable and corny as it might be, its zest. Nevermind that the 2011 heart tugger was a runaway smash hit in France — let's appreciate it on its own terms.

Driss (played by Omar Sy), an athletic Senegalese native who hustles on the streets to support his extended family, shows up for the employment interview — personal assistant to a disabled man — with a chip on his shoulder, as if he doesn't want the job. He's in a hurry to have his application signed so he can show it to the welfare official as proof of effort. Something about his attitude impresses Philippe (François Cluzet), the patient in question. Fabulously wealthy Philippe hurt himself paragliding in the mountains and is now paralyzed from the neck down. The person who cares for him has to do everything from bathing and feeding him to driving him around. Once the reluctant Driss gets a load of his opulent new quarters in Philippe's mansion, he figures he'll string along for a while and see what happens.

Of course, we already know what will happen. *The Intouchables* has taken a certain amount of flak over its use of the "magic negro" formula, with some justification. Driss, who thinks of himself as pragmatic, needs someone like Philippe to open him up to things like fine art (Driss tries his hand at action painting), European classical music (to Driss, "Berlioz" is the name of a housing block in the projects), and expensive suits. All he needs is a tiny break. Remember Eddie Murphy in *Trading Places*? Poor millionaire Philippe requires more work. His mind is sharp but his useless body inhibits him. He's afraid to show himself to his female pen pal for fear of rejection. What better vicarious antidote for his shyness than street-smart Driss, who's unfazed by Philippe's snooty circle and doesn't hesitate to beat up that guy who always parks in Philippe's handicapped parking space? And what better cure for Philippe's "phantom pains" than a little weed and a midnight city stroll? Beaucoup de physical humor.

Actor Cluzet (*Round Midnight*) is the ideal light leading man to portray Philippe, almost more of an ideal than a character. The true star of the show is Sy, a 34-year-old Frenchman who played a variety of comedic roles in things like *Micmacs* before landing this showboat of a part. He won a Best Actor César (the French Oscar) for it, beating out Jean Dujardin in *The Artist*.

Driss is so visibly wowed by his good luck that it naturally makes us beam along with him. He knows how to live and brings joy into Philippe's lonely life. Awww. The story happens to be true, based on the real-life situation of Philippe Pozzo di Borgo and his caregiver Abdel Sellou. Filmmakers Nakache and Toledano fill in the stock types with precisely the right personalities, and everything clicks. France is still wrestling with its racial politics, and *The Intouchables* is obviously a stepping-stone to the best of all possible worlds. Driss might just as easily be the rich asshole, but in the meantime he's the best friend money can buy.

The Intouchables

Written and directed by Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano. With François Cluzet and Omar Sy. Opens Friday.

I Wish

Written and directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda. With Koki Maeda and Ohshiro Maeda. Opens Friday.

Japanese writer-director Hirokazu Kore-eda's filmography (*Maborosi*, *After Life*, *Still Walking*) is filled with quiet, closely observed character studies about the different ways people watch out for each other. His masterpiece *Nobody Knows* carries out that plot concept to tear-jerking lengths in the story of a family of children abandoned by their mother in a Tokyo apartment, and what happens to them over time. With his latest, *I Wish*, Kore-eda returns to the land of kids, this time in a decidedly less tragic but just as defiantly hopeful mood.

Twelve-year-old Koichi (Koki Maeda), a pudgy boy with the deliberate demeanor of a serious middle-aged man, lives with his mother (Nene Ohtsuka) at the home of her parents in the southern Japanese city of Kagoshima, to which she and Koichi have recently moved after a divorce. Koichi's high-spirited younger brother Ryunosuke (Koki's real-life brother Ohshiro Maeda) lives in the nearby city of Hakata with their father, a guitar-strumming dreamer (Joe Odagiri). The brothers miss each other and the stability of their former family life — even though their parents seem to be incompatible — and together the boys hatch a "magical plan" involving two shinkansen bullet trains and the granting of wishes.

Kore-eda claims he was partially inspired by Rob Reiner's movie of Stephen King's *Stand by Me*, and there is a flavor of that in the way the brothers and their friends band together as they wander small-town Kyushu searching for the magic spot. But, as in *Nobody Knows*, the true chemistry exists somewhere in the air between the kids' personalities and the filmmaker's patented optimistic realism.

It takes on the contours of a tone poem. Flavors of Ozo waft in through an open window as Grandma (Kirin Kiki) fans herself in the still evening. An active but sleepy volcano dusts Kagoshima with fine ash. Koichi's tough but sympathetic teacher (Hiroshi Abe) confides that he, too, grew up without a dad. One of the boys has a crush on the school librarian. Koichi's pal Makoto (Seinosuke Nagayoshi) loves his little dog Marble so much he can't let go of him, no matter what. At home in Hakata, Ryu hangs out after school with three girls in the back room of a bar owned by the mother of pre-teen Megumi (Kyara Uchida), who wants to be an actress more than anything in the world. Grandpa (Isao Hashizume) and Grandma run a bake shop where they specialize in *karukan* cake — but the flavor is too subtle for most. Kore-eda, supremely humane, paints in a flurry of details that reveal a grand canvas of love and loyalty if we take a step back. Don't miss this one. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

A Cat in Paris French-language animated comedy about a young Parisian girl whose cat leads her into a mystery. Directed by Jean-Loup Felicioli and Alain Gagnol, written by Gagnol, with the voices of Dominique Blanc and Bruno Salomone. (70 min.)

Snow White & the Huntsman Action-fantasy take on the Brothers Grimm fairytale. Directed by Rupert Sanders, written by Evan Daugherty, John Lee Hancock, and Hossein Amini, starring Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron, and Chris Hemsworth. (127 min.)

ONGOING

Battleship So a thriller based on — wait for it — the Hasbro board game [illegible] and following a group of ships that comes across an alien fleet. Directed by Peter Berg, written by Erich and Jon Hoeber and starring Alexander Skarsgård, Brooklyn Decker, and Liam Neeson. (131 min.)

Bernie Actor Jack Black redeems himself and filmmaker Richard Linklater hits a home run with this offbeat character study, a hilarious slice of East Texas flavor in a true-crime wrapper. Everyone in the little town of Carthage is gossiping about how their beloved funeral director [illegible] has become the best friend and confidant of the richest lady in town, Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine), and the tongues really start wagging when Marjorie mysteriously disappears. [illegible] McConaughey [illegible] all revel in their parts, [illegible] Linklater's [illegible] (played by a mixture of actors and amateurs) play themselves as a Greek chorus. [illegible] Linklater (*The Newton Boys*, *Me and Orson Welles*) [illegible] and they're wonderful. The [illegible] *Fargo* is apt, [illegible] Linklater has delved deeply into his [illegible], with Sawyer and [illegible] the end credits to [illegible] song, "Bernie, What Goes [illegible]" [illegible] (104 min.) (K.V.)

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel Ensemble comedy about a group of Britons who [illegible] to spend their retirement in India. Directed by John Madden, adapted by Ol Parker from the novel *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Moggach; starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Dev Patel, and Tom Wilkinson. (124 min.)

The Cabin in the Woods Sort of a postmodern Scooby-Doo, this horror flick by *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* collaborators Joss Whedon and Drew Goddard cuts [illegible] familiar story of five college kids being hunted by zombies at the [illegible] [illegible] two [illegible] white-collar [illegible] (Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford) monitoring the slaughter from a NASA-type control room. [illegible] to be the [illegible] from trying to figure out what the second one is all about. I'm not sure [illegible] but the climactic [illegible] special-effects [illegible] boys [illegible] Whedon [illegible] (95 min.) (J.J.)

Chernobyl Diaries Horror film about a group of tourists [illegible] the infamous nuclear disaster. Directed by Bradley Parker, written by Oren Peli, Carey Van Dyke, and Shane Van Dyke; starring Jesse McCartney, Jonathan Sadowski, Devin Kel-[illegible] and Olivia Taylor Dudley. (88 min.)

Chimpanzee Disney-produced nature doc about — surprise! — a chimpanzee. Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, and narrated by Tim Allen.

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M&T

Dark Shadows America's first and Shadows soap-opera vampire Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp at his craziest) breaks out in 1972 and tries to contend with something even stranger than the doom of the [illegible]. Before Tim Burton's gleeful horror comedy [illegible] in the final act, Depp and the cast have all popular women all fun playing old-fashioned [illegible] Barnabas against an array of utterly unsatisfied females. Chief among them is Eva Green as witch Angelique, vengeful victim of [illegible], uncapitalized here — but there's also the family matriarch (Michelle Pfeiffer), a nerdy shrink (Helena Bonham Carter), the snippy nanny (Bella Heathcote), and Chloë Grace Moretz as the family's [illegible] stranger [illegible]. Director Burton and his visual crew — DP Bruno Delbonnel, production designer Rick Heinrichs, et al — outdo themselves in the ghostly [illegible], and Seth Grahame-Smith's screenplay (from a story he wrote with John August, and cribbed from the TV series by Dan Curtis) is ripe with witty situations. Burton's finest since Ed Wood. Also with Jackie Earle Haley as Willie the caretaker, and Christopher Lee, perfect as a grizzled old sea captain. (113 min.) (K.V.)

The Dictator By now, [illegible] Cohen's "funny foreigner" [illegible] familiar to audiences, the [illegible] popcorn. [illegible] despot named Admiral General Aladeen [illegible] its surprise element before anyone even sees it. [illegible] Cohen scored a few [illegible] political [illegible] in the last quarter. Bearded Mideast tyrant Aladeen gets lost on a state trip in New York City, falls in love with a health food store manager (Anna Faris, brilliantly), and [illegible] jokes [illegible] other young [illegible]. That's why Cohen is king of the [illegible] and [illegible]. Written by Cohan, Alec Berg, David Mandel, and Jeff Schaffer, and [illegible] with Ben Kingsley and John C. Reilly. [illegible] Admiral. (83 min.) (K.V.)

Elles Anne, a preoccupied, [illegible] magazine writer with spouse [illegible] (Binoche), gets overly involved with her [illegible] story subjects, a pair of Parisian prostitutes: Charlotte (Anaïs Demoustier), a [illegible] girl-next-door type, and Polish immigrant Alicja (Joanna Kulig), a chilly blond vodka-drinker with a cruel streak. And so director Małgorzata Szumowska, a Polish [illegible] herself [illegible] working with a screenplay she wrote with Tine Byrckel, whips up a cool and trendy portrait of [illegible] European [illegible] glamorized by Binoche's [illegible] performance. [illegible] the two escorts who [illegible] Anne [illegible] drama isn't [illegible] journalism [illegible] sexuality with a side [illegible]. The three [illegible] put on a show [illegible] graphic sex [illegible] but it's a [illegible]. (K.V.)

First Position Documentary following the young ballet dancers as they ready for the Youth America Grand Prix, a prestigious dance competition. Directed by Bess Kargman. [illegible]

The Five-Year Engagement [illegible] romantic comedy about a young couple [illegible] engagement [illegible], directed by Nicholas Stoller and Jason Segel, starring Segel, Emily Blunt, and Alison Brie.

Gerhard Richter Painting Documentary about the life and work of the famed German painter, directed by Corinna Belz. (97 min.)

Girl in Progress Comedy-drama about a single mom juggling her daughter, her job, and her love life. Directed by Patricia Riggen, written by Hiram Martinez, and starring Eva Mendes as the titular girl. (93 min.)

God Bless America Satirical [illegible] standup-comedian-turned-filmmaker who gave us World's Greatest Dad) throws out a puzzler with this saga of a middle-age crazy man (Joel Murray) who goes on a road-trip shooting rampage with his unlikely sidekick, a teenage girl (Tara Lynne Barr) who idolizes Alice Cooper. Is it Goldthwait's darker-than-thou comic commentary on [illegible] and dumbed-down entertainment in the USA, or does he identify with pissed-off Frank Murdoch? Is it a Falling Down? We may never know for sure. Writer-director Goldthwait's loathing portrait of everyday life and parodies of terrible TV shows are fun for awhile, but as the bodies pile up the angry-white-guy riff produces more heat than light. Rage is already cheap and Goldthwait sells it at a discount. Also with [illegible]. (104 min.) (K.V.)

Headhunters Roger (Aksel Hennie) is a fast-talking [illegible] executive who compensates for his lack of stature by operating a slick fine-art theft ring, the [illegible] knockout-looking, blond wife Diana (Synnøve Macody Lund). [illegible] Roger is desperately trying to impress, may be having an affair with rugged, suave Clas (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau), a new businessman in town [illegible] and [illegible] actor Aksel Hennie. What happens [illegible] Morten Tyldum's thriller [illegible] the dangerous parts of Norway [illegible] arranged by director Tyldum and screenwriters Lars Gudmestad and Ulf Ryberg, adapted from a novel by Jo Nesbø. The action assumes a life of its own, and it's a dirty life. (100 min.) (K.V.)

The Hunger Games Adapted from the popular young-adult novel, this sci-fi fantasy concerns two dozen teenage gladiators fighting each other to the death as part of a televised spectacle in the distant future. Director Gary Ross (Pleasantville) generally avoids the elaborate nonstop [illegible] and special effects that [illegible] high-concept blockbusters, and cinematographer Tom Stern, [illegible] the [illegible] gray tones of his many films with Clint Eastwood, shoots the character drama and scenes of hand-to-hand combat mainly [illegible] with a handheld camera. With Jennifer Lawrence, Woody Harrelson, and Wes Bentley. (142 min.) (K.V.)

Hysteria In Victorian London circa 1880, a young doctor named Mortimer Granville (Hugh Dancy) causes a sensation when he develops the world's first "electric personal massager" [illegible] as a means of alleviating his female patients' "nagging thoughts." [illegible] Granville becomes [illegible] with his employer's headstrong daughter, a feminist socialist named Charlotte (Maggie Gyllenhaal) who diverts the doctor's attention to the have-nots [illegible]. Under the direction [illegible]

PICK

Bernie

Actor Jack Black redeems himself and filmmaker Richard Linklater hits a home run with this comic character study, a hilarious shot of East Texas flavor in a true-crime wrapper. Everyone in the little town of Carthage is gossiping about how their beloved funeral director, sweet and fussy bachelor Bernie Tiede (Black), has become the best friend and confidant of the meanest old rich lady in town, Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine). And the tongues really start wagging when Marjorie mysteriously disappears. Black, MacLaine, and Matthew McConaughey (as the gung-ho local DA) all revel in their parts, and the crowning touch is Linklater's decision to let the townsfolk (played by a mixture of actors and amateurs) play themselves as a Greek chorus of gossips. Director Linklater (*The School of Rock, Before Sunset, Me and Orson Welles*) and co-writer Skip Hollandsworth just wind 'em up and let 'em go, and they're wonderful. The comparison with *Fargo* is apt, except that Houston native Linklater has delved deeply into his home state before, with *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused*. Stick around for the end credits to see James Baker sing his song, "Bernie, What Have You Done?" A winner. (104 min.) — *Kelly Vance*

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Mansome

of Tanya Wexler the screenplay — a true story embellished by writers Stephen Dyer, Jonah Lisa Dyer and Howard Gensler — gets just the right titillation and ribald-but-genteel laughs and [illegible] with sterling [illegible] support by [illegible] Pryce, Felicity Jones, Rupert Everett, and Sheridan Smith as veteran [illegible], high and low. (95 min.) (KV)

I Wish Hirokazu Kore-eda, maker of reliably sentimental, ultra-Japanese character studies like *Still Walking* and the wonderful *Nobody Knows*, fashions another gentle story of [illegible]. Two young brothers (played by real-life siblings and [illegible] comedians Koki and Ohshiro Maeda) separated by their parents' [illegible] hatch a fanciful plan involving [illegible] bullet trains and the granting of wishes, in order to reunite their family. Kore-eda stocks this wistful Kyushu tale with enough lovely characters to populate a [illegible] film — there's not a mean word in the movie. Kore-eda claims he was partially inspired by Rob Reiner's movie of Stephen King's *Stand by Me*, and there is a touch of that as the brothers and their friends band together on their "magical" quest. But the true chemistry [illegible] somewhere in [illegible] between the kids' sweet [illegible] and the filmmaker's patented optimistic vision. A supremely humane film. (128 min.) (KV)

The Intouchables Take the basic premise of *Driving Miss Daisy* and move it to contemporary Paris. Change Miss Daisy into a rich, quadriplegic white man (François Cluzet). Turn his [illegible] servant into a tough African immigrant from the [illegible] (Omar Sy). Voilà! And yet somehow, this [illegible] French comic character study is actually funny and well-constructed. As predictable and corny as a bright [illegible], the rapprochement between the disabled millionaire and the [illegible] gets nifty performances from both veteran Cluzet and [illegible] up-and-comer Sy, who won a César for Best Actor for his role, and the screenplay by the writing-directing team of Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano benefits from splendid comic timing and innumerable little grace notes. So it's based on a true story? Who cares? Everything clicks, even the supporting [illegible] Anne Le Ny, Audrey Fleurot, et al. (112 min.) (KV)

Jiro Dreams of Sushi [illegible] sushi master whose 10-seat restaurant in a Tokyo subway station is a world-renowned destination for gourmets seeking the elusive "perfect piece of sushi." According to documentary-maker David Gelb's worshipful profile of the 85-year-old master, Jiro-san is a quiet perfectionist who's never quite satisfied with his craft. And as we watch him [illegible] his daily menu [illegible] and steering his disciples to the famous Tsukiji fish market to buy the choicest cuts, we're ready to concede he's the end of a dying breed of purists. Foodies will devour this. (81 min.) (KV)

Mansome Veteran [illegible] Morgan Spurlock documentary. The maker of *Super Size Me* and *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* [illegible] modern male grooming, and it's more or less the same type of soft-sell, product-oriented advertorial we'd encounter in the pages of GQ magazine — [illegible] hair, [illegible] body hair, etc. The talking heads include [illegible] Judd Apatow, director John Waters, comedian Adam Carolla, and actor Zach Galifianakis, but none of them add anything interesting at end of the discussion. Best segment: the old-school stylist who [illegible] New York [illegible]; [illegible] the pro wrestler who [illegible] laboriously shaves every inch of his [illegible] body before each match in order to maintain the "look." You'll forget [illegible] this one while you're still watching it. (95 min.) (KV)

Marvel's the Avengers Exactly the sum of its parts. [illegible] Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man), Mark Ruffalo (The Incredible Hulk), and Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow). This installment of Stan Lee's Marvel Comics superhero adventures would be just another expensively produced [illegible] were it not for writer-director Joss Whedon's dialogue and [illegible] (co-written with Zak Penn, adapted from Lee and Jack Kirby's comic book) [illegible] when Iron Man, the Hulk, and Black Widow [illegible] involves saving Earth from [illegible] Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and a [illegible] called the Tesseract. Don't ask, and enjoy. The [illegible] with a bang. Also with Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye), Samuel L. Jackson (Nick Fury), Chris Evans (Captain America), Chris Hemsworth (Thor), and the [illegible] Gwyneth Paltrow as Tony Stark's squeeze, Pepper Potts. Now if they could [illegible] get Spider-Man into the mix. (142 min.) (KV)

Men in Black 3 Same silly [illegible] premise as before but with [illegible] special effects. [illegible] bright [illegible], it's certainly not the plot. Agent J (Will Smith) time-travels back to 1969 to prevent evil alien Boris the Animal (Jemaine Clement) from destroying [illegible] killing a younger [illegible] (Josh Brolin), J's 2012 partner, Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones). Brolin's [illegible] Tommy Lee [illegible] is very good, as is Michael Stuhlbarg's turn as Griffin, the agency's [illegible]. Also in the bright cast: Emma Thompson as MIB chief Agent O, [illegible] as a sympathetic army colonel and Nicole Scherzinger as Boris' [illegible] girlfriend. [illegible] in Hollywood [illegible]-blockbuster style by veteran Barry Sonnenfeld, from a screenplay by Etan Cohen, [illegible] and [illegible], adapted from a comic [illegible] by Lowell Cunningham. (106 min.) (KV)

Mirror Mirror Live-based adaptation of Snow White starring Lily Collins as the eponymous princess and Julia Roberts as the evil-queen nemesis. Directed by Tarsem Singh; adapted from the [illegible] Brothers Grimm fairytale by [illegible] and [illegible]. Also starring [illegible] and Sean Bean.

Otter 501 Alternative [illegible] documentary uses a character named Katie Pofahl as a narrator. A [illegible] newly arrived from Wisconsin, Katie joins an otter rescue operation partially to work with a rescued pup named "Otter 501," and as [illegible] learn what Katie does with the others [illegible] world. For [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] once thought extinct after being [illegible] for their pelts, came back — there are now some 2,700 of them on the California coast. The scenery around Monterey Bay is captured magnificently by cinematographer [illegible]. Written by Josh Rosen and directed by Bob Talbot. [illegible] should go see this. (84 min.) (KV)

The Pirates! Band of Misfits The inept "Pirate Captain" (voice of Hugh Grant) is unsuccessful at [illegible], as he and his crew get involved in a silly and [illegible] plot [illegible] Charles Darwin (David Tennant) and Queen Victoria (Imelda Staunton) in order to qualify for the Pirate of the Year award. Aardman Animations [illegible] with snappy [illegible] terrific voice characterizations, and Aardman's [illegible]. They just see the [illegible] differently than other animation studios, that's the only way to explain it. Hilarious and wonderful. Other voices by Salma Hayek, Brendan Gleeson, Martin Freeman, Jeremy Piven, and Brian Blessed. Directed by Peter Lord from a screenplay by Gideon Defoe, adapted from his book *Pirates in an Adventure with Scientists*. (87 min.) (KV)

Polisse The Child Protection Unit of the Paris, France police department involves around investigating crimes, usually sexual, against children. This stressful [illegible] assumes the shape of a string of unhappy vignettes with [illegible] starring a child pornography ring, [illegible] naughty teenagers, etc. Plenty of acting opportunities for Karin Viard, Emmanuelle Bercot, Frédéric Pierrot, Sandrine Kiberlain, and the rest of the high-powered cast, with nervous direction by actress-turned-filmmaker Maïwenn, who also [illegible] a role in the board. It'll be hard to take [illegible] but it is definitely worthwhile on a subject mainstream Hollywood wouldn't touch with a barge pole. The screenplay is by Maïwenn and Emmanuelle Bercot. (127 min.) (KV)

The Raven Fails to fully catch the spirit of Edgar Allan Poe, but it's better than the majority of films [illegible]. A mad [illegible] killer is terrorizing 1849 Baltimore by imitating the gruesome [illegible] in Poe's work, and it's up to the dissipated author himself (John Cusack) to solve the mystery. Cusack isn't quite as [illegible] as we would imagine Poe, but he has the look, and Ben Livingston and Hannah Shakespeare's dialogue suits him as he [illegible]. Also with Brendan Gleeson, Alice Eve, and Luke Evans. (110 min.) (KV)

Sound of My Voice An example of how much a movie can accomplish with a good script, a few decent actors, and a [illegible]. A pair of investigative video reporters (Christopher Denham and Nicole Vicius) infiltrate a furtive Los Angeles cult [illegible] around a charismatic young woman named Maggie (Brit Marling from *Another Earth*) who [illegible] from

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2064 ... and who urges her brainbeaten devotees to increasingly violent acts. The screenplay, by auteur Marling and director Zal Batmanglij, relies heavily on Marling's spooky demeanor and the story has the same eerie, obliquely apocalyptic tone as the similar 2011 movie about cults, Martha Marcy May Marlene. But something is missing. Think of it as a kind of down payment on the Marling syndicate. (85 min.) (KV)

Think Like a Man Romantic comedy about a group of friends embroiled in a series of games and misunderstandings after their girlfriends all begin using the same relationship-advice book. Directed by Tim Story; written by Keith Merryman and David A. Newman, adapted from the featured Steve Harvey book Steve Harvey's *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*; and starring Regina Hall, Gabrielle Union, Michael Ealy, and Jerry Ferrara. (123 min.)

What to Expect When You're Expecting Valentine's Day-style pastiche comedy about five women-couples coping with the before, during, and after of childbirth and parenthood. Directed by Kirk Jones, written by Shauna Cross, Heather Hach, and Heidi Murkoff; starring Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Banks, Chace Crawford and Brooklyn Decker. (110 min.)

Where Do We Go Now? The Lebanese civil war is just about the last setting in which we'd expect a playful, comic song-and-dance parable, but filmmaker Nadine Labaki carries it off with style. The Muslim and Christian men in the isolated village are always on the point of killing each other, so the village women have banded to deflect the men's violent urges in various ingenious ways, like interrupting alarming newscasts on the town's sole TV set with fake arguments, or baking hashish pastries in order to put the would-be combatants to sleep, or hiring a troupe of Ukrainian strippers as a distraction. Writer-director-actor Labaki plays the lead schemer, a Christian woman named Amale who operates the local café. The basic feel of the piece is the same as in Labaki's 2007 *Caramel*, the story of a Beirut beauty shop, but the added dimension of giving the village women the moral high ground by making their foes ... Fine support acting by Claude Baz Moussawbaa as Takla and Julian Farhat as Rabih. (100 min.) (KV)

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The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Whore's Glory Colorful, wide-ranging, who'd hold documentary doesn't tell us much we didn't already know about prostitution, but shows a profound web of religious sociology as working girls in Faridpur, Bangladesh, and Mexico describe their lives and services for the camera. Austrian doc maker Michael Glawogger, a film festival favorite specializing in panoramic world tours (*Workingman's Death*, *Megacities*), lets his subjects do the talking while his camera glides away. We learn in a few hasty conclusions. Bangkok is the well-fed swingers; Faridpur, Bangladesh is poor and miserable; and the Zona Tolerancia in the Tex-Mex border town of Reynosa is a surrealistic collapse of cultures, with religion on the girls' side of salvation. The music track tunes, by PJ Harvey, CocoRosie, and various other artists, is a large part of the dreamed-fetishist mood. (119 min.) (KV)

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, MAY 31

One Man, Two Guvnors (180 min., 2012). Before "Theatre Live" (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, Berkeley, 7:00)

Reportero (71 min., 2012). Followed by a question and answer session with director Bernardo Ruiz. Third Annual Fist Up Film Festival (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 7:30)

Ringo (98 min., 1990). Flashbacks (UA Berkeley 7 Berkeley, 9:00)

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

The Group (150 min., 1966). Berkeley Underground Film Society (700 Gilman St., Berkeley, 7:00)

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Frankenstein (120 min., 2012). National Theatre Live (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, Berkeley, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Drive (100 min., 2010). Preceded by potluck and world food at 6:30 p.m.; followed by discussion (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

PICK

Polisse

The Child Protection Unit of the Paris, France police department rambles around investigating crimes, usually sexual, against children. This stressful *polizier* assumes the shape of a string of unhappy vignettes with distressed families galore and a squad of stressed *flics* chasing a child prostitution ring, incestuous parents, naughty teenagers, etc. Plenty of acting opportunities for Karin Viard, Emmanuelle Bercot, Frédéric Pierrot, Sandrine Kiberlain, and the rest of the high-powered cast, with nervous direction by actress-turned-filmmaker Maïwenn, who also plays a role in the action. Will be hard to take for most souls but is definitely worthwhile on a subject mainstream Hollywood wouldn't touch with a barge pole. The screenplay is by Maï and actress Bercot. (126 min.) — *Kelly Vance*

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DO YOU SPEAK TANGO?

A San Francisco trio re-envisions traditional tango

By Rachel Swan

San Francisco may be a full hemisphere away from the international capital of tango, but it's home to a decent-size Argentine dance scene — albeit one that regularly flirts with obsolescence. The patrons tend to be middle-aged and a bit mannered. The choreography is slow and exacting, mostly executed over old, tinny records that crackle through even the most high-tech sound systems. The venues are mostly characterized by big chandeliers and banquet tables; the upstairs floors always dominated by "powder rooms." Still, there are enough milongas — or dance nights — between North Beach and the Mission District to keep the tradition going. And if you play in a tango ensemble, this small haven of the world could be your oyster.

That's definitely the case for Trio Garufa, a chamber group whose members hail from three different continents. They're three of a small handful of practicing tango musicians in the Bay Area, and as such are tasked with bolstering a scene that might otherwise wilt, lest it rely entirely on canned recordings from the Forties and Fifties. But bassist Sascha Jacobsen, guitarist Guillermo Garcia, and bandoneón player Adrian Jost don't merely see themselves as torchbearers. They've studied the form relentlessly, toured throughout the Americas, and created an ample oeuvre. Their new seventeen-track album, *El Rumor de Tus Tangos*, has a pointedly ecumenical sensibility. It genuflects to the Golden Era of tango (1930-1950) but also includes original compositions, a few folklore tunes, and some modern electro-tango. For work so steeped in tradition, it has sex appeal.

And that's an important factor for anyone making a career in dance music. On a recent Thursday evening, the trio played a gig at Verdi Club, a large ballroom just north of Potrero Avenue in the Mission District. The band was booked to play at ten, but Jacobsen and Jost both arrived an hour early for their soundcheck, right in the middle of a beginners' dance lesson. About a dozen couples formed a ring around the club's dance floor while an instructor stood in the middle, discoursing on rhythm and tempo.

"If it's not in time it becomes bor-ring," she said in a thick Spanish accent. "Like this — " She began speaking to the crowd in Spanish, letting her voice trail off mid-sentence, so that the words seemed to wither. "*Ahora nosotros estamos bai-laaaa-do ...* "

The crowd laughed politely as a small wave of feedback burbled through the club's speakers, followed by the wheezing strains of a 1930s Argentine orchestra. As Jost and Jacobsen tuned their instruments onstage, couples began to slide with glacial elegance across the dance floor. To an observer, the movements seemed simple: Left foot steps, right foot steps, left foot extends back and drags up toward the right. But they're performed so thriftily that each person's body seems like a mirror image of the other. One tiny misstep would destroy that perfect symmetry.

The same could be said of tango music, Jacobsen explained during the half-hour break between setup and showtime. He sat in the lobby of Verdi, drinking a glass of Argentine Malbec wine while Jost scrambled to write a setlist — Garcia was teaching a dance class around the corner and probably wouldn't arrive until ten. Jacobsen, who divides his time between Trio Garufa and another chamber group, the Musical Art Quintet, is one of the most prodigiously talented composers in the Bay Area. He's known for taking full orchestral scores and distilling them for four or five instruments. But even he finds tango a bit taxing.

"You have to consider the rhythm, the melody, the counterpoint," he said, pointing out that each piece funnels a huge patchwork of elements into a compressed period of time — usually three minutes. Unlike other dance forms, tango almost never has room for improvisation. There's a style called a *parrilla* ("off the grill") that gives musicians some room to solo, but it's still trickier and a little more stylized than American jazz. In many senses, tango is a little closer to classical. It requires strict adherence to a form, and only allows musicians to take liberties in how they interpret a melody.

But Jacobsen loves it. He became smitten about six or seven years ago, after discovering the records of Astor Piazzolla, a classical musician who played the bandoneón, or squeezebox accordion (probably the most important signifier in tango music, other than the rhythm). Piazzolla invented a new genre called *nuevo tango*, which mixed elements of the Latin genre with classical music and jazz — a polyglot form not unlike the music Jacobsen writes for his own groups. He is to Argentina what Bob Marley is to Jamaica.

"I was listening to Piazzolla and finding as many scores as I could," Jacobsen said. "I bought a bandoneón and taught myself to play it. I wanted to imitate the sounds of the bandoneón on my bass."

Show Details
At Berkeley World Music Festival (2556 Telegraph Ave.) on Saturday, June 2, 7-8 p.m., free. BerkeleyWorldMusic.org

That was an odd detour for a conservatory-trained musician who says he's been so steeped in "the chordal textures of jazz," but it led him to seek out fellow *tangueros*, including Jost and Garcia, who'd formed Trio Garufa in 2002 and played with a rotating cast of bass players. All three of them felt a connection to tango that seemed more atavistic than scholarly. Jost had grown up in Switzerland playing the accordion. As an adult, he traveled to Buenos Aires so often that he wound up buying an apartment there. Garcia, who was born in the Argentine city Bahía Blanca, grew up playing tango. Jacobsen officially joined the group in 2005. "It was synchronicity," he said.

Many historical factors contributed to the deterioration of tango in Argentina, which has a long and scattered history of military coups, dictatorships, and financial crises. By the latter half of the last century, large orchestras had given way to smaller and more economical outfits, big dance salons had closed, and the once-popular art form had become an ever-diminishing subculture. In time, tango was supplanted by other styles of pop music. Even with the electro-tangos of the Eighties — which were essentially traditional songs set over a machine-made backbeat — the genre failed to modernize. Jacobsen, Garcia, and Jost all see themselves as conservators of a tradition.

Trio Garufa has mastered a range of styles

Nonetheless, there are advantages to being anachronistic. For one thing, Trio Garufa all but dominates the rarefied world of Bay Area tango. They divide the gigs with a couple other outfits, and there are evidently enough slots to keep everyone working multiple nights a week. And because the members of Trio Garufa are conversant in so many different musical styles, they appeal to a wide audience. At a place like Verdi Club, they tend to stick with the three traditional dance formats — waltz, tango and the faster-paced *milonga* — but on *El Rumor*, they're insistently, almost obstinately inventive. Garcia plays flute and violin parts on his guitar while Jost handles all piano duties on his bandoneón. Often, the bass plays melodies, or Jacobsen slaps the wooden belly to treat it as a percussion instrument. Some songs in their repertoire, like the Piazzolla cover "Libertango," are deeply redolent of jazz.

Some patrons at Verdi Club would like to see that modernizing impulse become more widespread in the tango world. "I've been coming here for fifteen years," said Count Clover, a dance instructor whose business card describes him as "the other side of tango." "I go to Peña Pachamama (in North Beach) and see the same people. I go across the country to New York, and people recognize me."

Though new blood would surely help the scene, there may yet be hope. Jacobsen said that when Trio Garufa played a CD release party at Ashkenaz a few weeks ago, nearly two hundred people showed up. The venue lacked that classic tango-club vibe, but still everyone was dancing. ●

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KICKSTARTER IN MOTION

Why there's good cause to get revved up about pre-funded projects.

Will Butler

Thanksgiving, 2010: A broke, down-and-out local recording engineer named Scott McDowell came home to his parents' house in Novato. His pitch went something like, "Listen, guys, I know I can't sell coconuts in Dolores Park forever or keep coming here on the weekends to mow your lawn. I need to make real money. I know. But I need you guys to be patient with me, because there's this new website that's going to change everything."

He was talking about Kickstarter, the site that lets users pledge to fund any project that achieves its donation goal in a certain number of days. McDowell had devised what he thought was a foolproof way to bring in work. Rather than convince his favorite musicians that he was the guy to work with, he would zero in on a band, offer to run its Kickstarter campaign to finance an entire album, and thereby secure himself a powerful spot in the booth.

McDowell's scheme was both contrived and brilliant. He asked his roommate, a tech-savvy media junkie named Kasia Cieplak-Mayr von Baldegg, to teach him how to edit videos, since most Kickstarter campaigns include a video plea for money. Suddenly, he was qualified.

Last week, Cieplak-Mayr von Baldegg, now editor of *The Atlantic's* popular video blog, wrote: "Kickstarter is the new hipster home-shopping network," implying that today's independent music fans are no different than those lackadaisical couch potatoes who dreamily tune in at 3 a.m. to offload disposable income via 1-800-numbers. Though her commentary is cynical, it points to a new trend in impulse donorship. People are making serious money on this site — and you could, too.

In McDowell's case, it was a viable new business. And, in a sense, it was too successful. Pretty soon more work started rolling in through other avenues, and McDowell realized that he couldn't balance both a recording business and an underlying Kickstarter consulting firm. So he dumped the latter but remains a Kickstarter evangelist. He's worked on more than ten projects in the last two years. Some ask for up to $25,000 but most are in the $10,000 range. And, get this: Not one campaign has failed.

One supremely successful campaign was waged by Amanda Palmer, frontwoman of The Dresden Dolls and absolute social media freak. She started a campaign in April to raise $100,000 for an album, and next week when the campaign ends, it looks like she's going to reel in at just under $1 million. Granted, Palmer's audience is fanatical, but it's still astonishing.

So if the money's out there, just how do you get it? McDowell has a few tips.

"Transparency is important," he said. "That means don't be greedy. People are much more likely to pony up if they know exactly what they're paying for," he said. "Don't shoot too high or too low. Make sure you work closely with a budgeter — be it your tour manager, recording engineer, publicist, a fellow musician, or whoever else expects to get paid."

Scott McDowell recommends making a good video.

Once the finances are clearly charted, make a good video, he continued. McDowell mentioned the inspiring example of a San Francisco songwriter named Sonya Cotton. "A few terrible things happened in her life: her mother died, a friend died, and she almost gave up music entirely. But she came back, and she had a great concept for the album, and she's very sensitive and good at articulating those sorts of things, so that really came through."

McDowell pieced together Cotton's Kickstarter video, which featured her sitting in front of Lake Merritt with her guitar, telling her story. Because of the sincerity and simplicity of her campaign, her LP *It Is So* achieved its goal ($10,000) in eleven days. However, not all of the videos McDowell has worked on have been as compelling. So what if your project doesn't catch on immediately?

Promote the hell out of it, he said. Contrary to what you might think, though, this does not mean spamming everyone you know. This is the most crucial part of the campaign, and you must go about it methodically, deliberately, and with confidence.

McDowell sees both Twitter and Facebook as having their own advantages. Twitter works in higher volume, but Facebook makes for higher-quality views, if people see it. A popular video on YouTube, too, can be a great way to point fans to your fundraising efforts.

But McDowell insisted that promotion should also be carefully calculated: "You have to identify what am I selling, who are the people that are going to be receptive to it, and of those people, who is influential?" It sounds callous, but if you can get your popular friends to agree to help in advance, their promotion (an e-mail, tweet, Facebook share, or phone call) can expand the networks that you reach exponentially, he explained. "If you're trying to raise $10,000, your friends alone are not enough," McDowell laughed — unless your friends are all Google employees.

More tips: Give the project enough days to succeed, but if you make it too long, lots of credit cards will be declined (there are always some). Factor in that Kickstarter takes 5 percent, Amazon (which processes the payments) takes around 3 percent, and that's before taxes. But if you play your cards right, it could be a windfall.

◆

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CD REVIEWS

CHEAP THRILLS AND BIG SPIRITS

The specter of Spektor, a spirit-filled legacy, and a jaundiced impression

Regina Spektor

What We Saw from the Cheap Seats

The most shocking thing on Regina Spektor's sixth album happens just about a minute and a half into "Small Town Moon," the very first song on the record, and it happens suddenly: guitars, thrashing and squealing and stomping for about thirty seconds, before the song abruptly returns to whence it came, into a tinkling, slightly twee piano ballad.

Only for Spektor would the presence of basically the most common instrument in pop music be considered a departure. And, yes, *Cheap Seats* sounds, all together, a lot like Spektor's previous five releases: unaccountably charming, slightly oddball, overwhelmingly pleasant, and largely piano-driven pop, the kind of stuff that gets played at dinner parties and coffee shops and appears on the soundtracks of romantic comedies of the smarter, indier persuasion. All the signatures are here on *Cheap Seats*: the glottal stops and goofy fake-Italian accent on "Oh Marcello," the elongated vowel sounds, at turns spiky and sad, on "How," the skittering arrangement and lyrical obsession with fine art on "All the Rowboats." And then of course, that voice: wobbly, pliable, singular, magnificent, same as it ever was.

So, really there's two ways to look at *Cheap Seats*. On the one hand, it sticks largely to form (save for the aforementioned guitars, a few very well-executed horn parts, and a couple particularly adventurous arrangements), and Spektor doesn't appear to be making any effort at changing that. But at the same time: Why would we want her to? (Sire)

— *Ellen Cushing*

Mary Mary

Go Get It

Unlike some contemporary gospel artists who substitute pronouns like "you" and "him" for "God" and "Jesus" in order to fool nonbelievers into thinking they're singing about romance instead of religion, Erica and Tina Campbell don't conceal the object of their adoration. It helps, of course, that the sisters, known professionally as Mary Mary, use hard-pumping hip hop-derived beats to draw audiences, both Christian and secular, to their saved-and-sanctified messages, most of them penned by the two in collaboration with Erica's husband, producer Warryn Campbell.

Released to coincide with the Southern California duo's new reality television series, *Mary Mary*, which airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on WE tv, *Go Get It* is essentially a greatest hits package. Eleven of the thirteen tracks are remastered — and in some cases remixed — favorites from the sisters' previous albums, including "Shackles (Praise You)," the rhythm-charged tune that introduced many to their innovative sound a dozen years back. Also from their debut album is the impassioned "Can't Give Up Now," which is about the closest the duo has come to old-school gospel. Guests include Destiny's Child, Kirk Franklin, and Kierra "Kiki" Sheard, and Oakland guitarist John "Jubu" Smith's hypnotic chords are at the forefront of "Little Girl," a 2002 number he helped compose. The disc's two new selections — the bouncy title track and a tambourine-driven shuffle titled "Sunday Morning" — are welcome additions to Mary Mary's legacy of spirit-filled musical excellence. (Columbia)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

The Walkmen

Heaven

"We Can't Be Beat" is a confounding song, and it introduces an album that insists on being impressive without ever really impressing. A simple nylon-string guitar underlies a country-Elvis lament. Singer Hamilton Leithauser, who has become somewhat of an iconic frontman, croons like Ricky Nelson as barbershop backup vocals chime in to support the song's emotional payoff. Sounds nice, right?

But even though it's the album's most interesting moment, Leithauser can't really croon. When he belts, rasping over crunchy, tremeloed guitars, it's like having gravel poured over your head (in a good way), but the song doesn't flatter his voice. And that's just track one. On the remainder, there are few surprises instrumentally, and Leithauser comfortably basks in a bit of a diva role throughout.

Sadly, much of The Walkmen's idiosyncrasies disappear on this album. There's little trace of the things that made people fall in love with the band in the first place. There's none of the hard-driving drums and harried vigor of 2004's "The Rat," or the close, twinkly pianos of 2008's *Everyone Who Pretended to Like Me Is Gone*, or the experimentation of 2010's *Lisbon*, or even the woeful mariachi horns of "Stranded." It's a shame.

On "Heartbreaker," Leithauser buzzes *these are the good years*, and *it's not the singer, it's the song* — perhaps accounting for his shiftlessness. "Song for Leigh" is maybe the best, although it climaxes with all the oomph of late Bob Dylan. Lead single "Heaven," on the other hand, sounds like a sped-up cut off Real Estate's album *Days*. At most, *Heaven* will go down as a minor work in an impressive discography. (Fat Possum)

— *Will Butler*

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

Mickey Hart Band

Mysterium Tremendum

Background singer Crystal Monee Hall is the true talent on this album. But it's impressive that the four-decade career of former Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart shows no sign of abating. With its campy blues-rock vocals and worldish backing tracks, *Mysterium* is slightly antiquated yet well-crafted. (360° Productions)

At The Fillmore (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco) on June 30, 8 p.m., $25.

The Corner Laughers

Poppy Seeds

This chirpy "chamber pop" sextet certainly sounds like a children's band, owing to its profligate use of glockenspiel. But The Corner Laughers' lyrics are surprisingly elegant: "Bells of El Camino" is bedecked with lovely descriptions of California landscapes, while "(Now That I Have You I'm) Bored" offers a wry take on relationships and buyer's remorse. (Mystery Lawn Music)

Brian Ho

Organic

Hammond B3 organist Brian Ho is known locally for collaborating with blues guitarist Calvin Keys, and now he's consolidated his career as a leader. His new album features a tight quartet with Keys, Oscar Pangilinan on tenor sax, and Lorca Hart on drums. The band does a swing version of Amy Winehouse's "Rehab," but the apex comes at the end — a churchy tribute to Ellington followed by a catchy original. (B2B Music)

At the Healdsburg Jazz Festival, King Event Center (1261 Grove St., Healdsburg) on Friday, June 1, 7 p.m., $20.

Melody Walker

Gold Rush Goddess

There's no debating Melody Walker's skills as a folk-singer, even if she occasionally relies on hackneyed analogies. Her scores feature a battery of string instruments and the occasional shaker — which manages to create the illusion of an ample rhythm section. Walker's voice is lithe, her sentiments vivid. (self released)

At Ashkenaz (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, May 31, 8 p.m., $15. ●

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North African / Middle Eastern / Sufi

4 Duo Gadjo Noon - 1:30 pm
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14 Trio Garufa 7 - 9 pm
Tango Argentino

12 [illegible] 5 - 7 pm
[illegible]

7 Tree Life Trio 1:30 - 3 pm
Balkan & Beyond

11 Ultra World X-tet 5:30 - 7 pm
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5 Alex Yaskan Noon - 4 pm
World Accordion Music

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DJ Unknown plays Happy Raw Punk Rock Dave Vaughn, 5 p.m. free

The Get Go Night #5 featuring Bobs Stone, White Fang, Un Hush, CCR Headcleaner, Chis Chief and The Husky White Rooks, 7:30 p.m. $8

The Loom with Handball Boy, Kelp Un Phd, Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m.

Midnight Field with Herb In Movement, The Decoys and Counter Culture, Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5

The Secretaries featuring The Williams with Lord Fows A Working Man, The Red Parrot, 9 p.m. $7-$10

The Spazmatics Don's Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m. free

Tribute to Bob Dylan and The Beats community benefit, Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Zuriani & The Gadfel Festorum Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $17.50, $12.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Michael Hoadeyo Herman Hemmen & Blues, 9 & 11 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ana Mandara Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 7:30-11 p.m. free

Eddie Pasterman Duo with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m. free

George Michalski Scott Howard, 8:30 p.m.

The Hermon Brothers Le Colonial, 7 p.m. free

Stompy Roots San Francisco-based quartet performs live jazz and blues, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Red Glasses, with Kapowski, The Independent, 9 p.m.

Coughtry with Kellybullet and Mike S, The Warfield, 7:30 p.m.

Page & The Pleasures with Fox & Badger and La Rose, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $12

Secret Secretaries with Mark Nelson, Floating Trance, the Spiral Electric, and Mannequin Pearl Parkside, 5 p.m., $7

The Stripsiders with Dewdrop and Tiny Hand Family Band, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $7-$10

Visiting Roses with Collin Ludlow-Mattson And The Pullie and The Ambs, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $6

The The with Yadaamaka, Sonic Titan, and Future Muppy, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $12-$14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Roots of Mischief with Spook Papa, John Cohen, 6 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Dos 4 Las Mias Nota, 9:30 p.m. free

Flamenco Thursdays traditional flamenco & Sevillanas with Fernando Zentzen, $ Stephanie Vasquez, Peña Pachamama, $ p.m. $12

FRIDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Justin Lounge Lizards Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $24.50-$19.50

First Friday Follies burlesque night with MC Jacy P. Light, and live music, Stork Club, 5 p.m., free

Song Henderson, Sodality with Red Sheppen, Subsmemon Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $20-$21

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jackson Albright Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $30

Oakland Young Musicians Program end-of-year performances, Mortimer's, 7 p.m. free

MJ's Boots Boppers blues slapping, & p.m. $9

Red Dibble dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

The Makers/Boys Greek Theatre, 8 p.m., $45-$125

Books on Tape with Kapowski, Ghost and the City, and Trash Beach, The Uptown, 9 p.m. free

Cordrums Fox Theater, 8 p.m. $45-$85

Dave Mosley piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free

Doggy Style with Symbol 8x, The Marc Ment Hook & The Vital Organs, and The Crumbrees, 924 Gilman, 7 p.m. $10

Dog Bomb Flamenco with Mark Bernal and The Yeah D Shame, Sun Valley Gun Club, and Lemons, Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

Hella Fun Tribute Night Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m. $8-$12

Harry & His Pals with Shannon and the Harbor King, The Bobbytoons, and King Lollipop, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Brazilian Night authentic Samba Boots party, La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m., $20-$17

Lagos Roots Afrobeat Ensemble Vitus, 11 p.m. $5

Sambaba with Bahia Saut, Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Joyce Fenn & Norman Eberfrash Zingari Ristorante, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ana Mandara Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m. free

Billy Maters & Wil Blades Duo with On The Spot Trio, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m. $18-$20

Union-Market Jazz Performance Top of the Mark, 9 p.m. $10

Red Prof's Sea Boy Ensemble Red & Book Prints and Records, 5:30-8 p.m. free

Eddie Pasterman Duo with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m. free

George Michalski Scott Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

Rock & Pop

Al Lover & The Haters with Annie Bacon And Her Oshen, Adios Amigo, and My Sequel Suppose, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $12

Greg Laswell with Elizabeth Ziman and Colour, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $15

The Beach Boys play The Greek Theatre on 6/1

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PICKS

Sleep

The Revelations Featuring Tre Williams

Tre Williams may have contributed hooks to hip-hop tunes by Petey Pablo and Nas, but these days he's delivering mostly original neo-soul numbers in gritty church-chiseled low-tenor tones akin to those of Anthony Hamilton. Retro-soul might be a better tag, however, since the Florida-born singer and his band reach way back to deep-fried Southern soul sounds of the Seventies. The Revelations feature plenty of biting blues guitar work by Wes Mingus, noted for his recordings with Wu-Tang Clan, Lee "Scratch" Perry, and Bill Laswell. And they often dig into four-on-floor Memphis grooves, which isn't surprising since much of the group's current CD, *Concrete Blues*, was cut by co-producer Boo Mitchell at Royal Studios, the same place where Al Green made all his big hits with Boo's late dad Willie. They'll play at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Thursday, May 31. 9 p.m., $7-$10. TheNewParish.com — *Lee Hildebrand*

The Beach Boys

Few bands celebrate fifty years — hardly anyone can boast that kind of longevity, least of all a group of people trying to make music under one name. Granted, The Beach Boys haven't actually been together for that whole time. They've had their ups and downs, and it had been nearly twenty years since the surviving members all stood together on one stage. But 2011 saw wave after wave of rumors that Brian Wilson would rejoin his cousin Mike Love, along with Al Jardine, Bruce Johnston, and David Marks. Finally, at this year's Grammy Awards of all places, it happened. They might be grandpas, but they can still hit the high notes (mostly), and the current world tour could well be their last. *That's Why God Made the Radio*, a new reunion album which comes out on June 5, is true to form and unsurprising, but at the very least reflects that the band members have mended fences for the sake of the music. They'll play at The Greek Theatre (2001 Gayley Rd., Berkeley) on Friday, June 1. 8 p.m., $45-$125. APEconcerts.com — *Will Butler*

Jacob Blickenstaff

Tre Williams

Sleep

It says a lot that Matt Pike decided to reconvene his old band Sleep now. His current outfit, High on Fire, has been on a steady upward trajectory since Sleep disbanded in the late Nineties, and, having just released a very well-received sixth album, *De Vermis Mysteriis*, will join the Rockstar Energy Drink Mayhem Festival this summer playing to stadium-size crowds. In other words, unlike some reunion tours, this one isn't happening because the musicians' relevancy has slipped away. Quite the contrary. After a successful reunion gig a few years ago for an appearance at All Tomorrow's Parties, the members of Sleep — guitarist/singer Pike, bassist Al Cisneros, and Neurosis drummer Jason Roeder (filling in for Chris Hakius) — decided to keep that momentum going with sporadic shows, including two dates at The Regency Ballroom and a secret show at Eli's Mile High Club. To celebrate the "epic deluxe" reissue of the one-song, hour-long, long-lasting soundtrack/album *Dopesmoker* (which its record label refused to release and led to the band's breakup), Sleep will play a handful of US tour dates, including The Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, June 5. Oakeee and Kowloon Walled City open. Expect the haze to be thick. 8 p.m., $35. TheFoxOakland.com — *Kathleen Richards*

Reggie Watts

The label "performance artist" does Reggie Watts no justice, though it's probably the only way to bring together all his disparate talents. A comedian, beatboxer, DJ, sometime balladeer, and master of extreme vocal timbres, Watts can craft a satisfying one-man show without writing anything down ahead of time. When he performed with jazz pianist Robert Glasper at Yoshi's, the two of them went off script for most of the evening, regaling audiences with mock slow jams and an uncanny impersonation of Jay-Z. But it wasn't all levity — they interspersed the light moments with serious, soulful jazz and R&B, much of it characterized by gospel-chord voicings and nimble piano runs. Watts will bring that mix of wry wit and artistic sophistication to his one-man show at The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Friday, June 1, which will feature improvised sets on a looping machine. And just to sweeten the pot, fabulous local comedian (and Cal alum) Chris Garcia opens. Looks like it's sold out, but check Craigslist for tickets. 9 p.m., $25. IndependentSF.com — *Rachel Swan*

C&C

The Band And The Heart with The Moondoggies. The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $25

Jer Der Jones with Rodney O'Neal Austin & Nick Pearl Rockland, Yoin Kale, MC Crumbersnatcher, and DJ Gaggles. Thee Parkside, 10 p.m., $10

Leighton Meester And Check In The Dark with Dana Williams. Slim's, 8:30 p.m., $21

Mikal Cronin with Burnt Ones and Permanent Collection. 1015. 8 p.m., $6

Whellmoons with Cobblestones and Matthew Joseph Payne. Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $10

Mogwai with Chad VanGaalen. The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Four Jones Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10, $12

Thompson & The Rockistars Yoshi's & Bistro, 8 & 11 p.m., $20

Uncle Death Valley with Mark Bessolo, Tia Rosanne, Little Red, and Sell Roller. Rickshaw Stop, 9 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Reggie Watts with Chris Garcia. The Independent, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

East Bay Honky-Tonk DJ 58 downloads classic country, bluegrass, alt-country, honky-tonk, blues, & more. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

The Greg Gioos Band Vault, 5 p.m., $1

Pleasant Family Singers Happy Acoustic Sleepy Plough, 5 p.m., free

Robin Flower & Libby McLaren Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50, $24.50

Stone Mae Santos with The Gentlemen Boys and The Know Nothings. Starry Plough, 8:30 p.m., $8-$12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Omnie Woodward Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $30

Jack & Joe Table of Joy, 9:30 p.m., free

Ned Dibble dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley, 8 p.m., free

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C&C

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Los Amiguitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $8, kids $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] piano music at [illegible] Pete's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] Music Festival with [illegible] [illegible] Occidental Brothers Dance Band International [illegible] Andy Cabic, [illegible] and Sonny Smith & Friends performing [illegible] 12:30 p.m., $15-$240

Live 105's [illegible] Annual BFD with [illegible] The Naked & Famous, [illegible] Of Monsters And Men, Walk The Moon, Imagine Dragons, Katie Perry, [illegible] Shoreline Amphitheatre, $13-$59.50

[illegible] Festival The Lounge, 8 p.m., $12-$15

[illegible] with [illegible]

Breathing, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m.

[illegible] with Songs For Snakes, My Life As A Dog, Fusion 22 and [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] R Dorsey's Locker, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] 8 p.m., $5

[illegible] & [illegible] Restaurant Berkeley World Music Festival After Party, Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $13

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SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] Saloon, 9:15 p.m., free

[illegible] folk music with Shot Mignons, Caffe Trieste, 12:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free

[illegible] & The Highheels [illegible], $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio live jazz, [illegible], $11, 30 p.m., Bar

[illegible] with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] Paradise, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] with [illegible] (Japan) and [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] with [illegible] 9 p.m., $15

The Head And The Heart with [illegible] Lounge, 8 p.m., $15

[illegible] with [illegible] and Garrett Pierce, The Independent, 5 p.m., $12-$14

The Paradise Boys [illegible] 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible] 9 p.m., $20

[illegible] with [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $8

The [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m., $10-$12

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $20-$24

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $7-$10

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[illegible] 2456 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
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[illegible] 128 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2250
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555
[illegible] 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 919 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible]
Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020
Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-0888
High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-995-8049
[illegible] 1420 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-865-3225
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237
[illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-4450
Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2385
[illegible] 2081 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-848-8211
[illegible] 1400 Webster St., Oakland, 510-251-0700
[illegible] 572 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-0401
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464
Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2484
Laney College Lounge 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3544
The [illegible] 1581 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1591
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-530-3411
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, [illegible]
[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2121 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-1888
Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-839-6169
Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2255
Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474
Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344
Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-6830
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121
[illegible] Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-729-0985
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400
Piedmont Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, PiedmontCenterfortheArts.org
[illegible] 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-547-8180
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050
[illegible] 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-451-2889
Rhythmix Cultural Works 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060
The [illegible] 1115 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4881
[illegible] 2730 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-338-9190
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224
[illegible] 42011 Boyce Rd., Fremont, 510-673-0441
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159
[illegible] Nightclub 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 130, San Ramon, 925-831-8111
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300
Spoontonic Lounge 2540 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5131
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible]
[illegible] 1517 14th St., Oakland
Subterranean Art House 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-868-0281
Sweet Jimmie's 454 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-9900
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
Vinnie's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-9515
Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450
[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4990
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124

C&C

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Saturday Night Soul Party with Eric Lastly, Pool Paul, and Phengren Ronald, Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $5-$10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Indigenous with Platano, Seed & Mortar. Mezzanine Hall. 8 p.m. $12, $15

SUNDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Jupiter, 5 p.m., free

Johnny o All-Star Super Walleye Jimmy Fenty o's 11 Street blues band every week, Rooster Restaurant. 5 p.m. free

Roger Goll with Shea Sugit and Gary Anderson. Vino, 3 p.m. $15-$20

Shark Alley Noise Vino, 5 p.m. $8

Sunday Morning Blues with Rev Rehse, Caffe Mediterraneum. 10 a.m. free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Music Orchestra Performing Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 5 and 7 Nicola Luisotti conducts. Zellerbach Hall. 3 p.m. $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Gil Wallace jazz elegant trio with Monsters. Pepper Gypsy Cafe. 12:30 p.m. free

Dream Allright Yoshi's Oakland. 8 p.m. $20

Jazz and R&B Night Dorsey's Locker. 6-10 p.m. free

Jazzschool Advanced Jazz Workshops Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $10.50, $17.50

The Grandham Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz. Caffe Mill. 5-8 p.m., and

John Schott Actual Cafe. 5 p.m. free

Lloyd Wesson Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m.

Live Music: With Fodel CD release, Jazzschool. 8:30 p.m. $10, $12

Monsters Women & Big Band Country Gave. 3 p.m. $25 $15

The Davey Gebris Trio Hell's Lounge. 8:30-10 p.m. free

Pamela Collie Piedmont Piano Company. 7:30 p.m. $15

Terrence Brewer Trio Music Orchestra. 8 Bar. 6:30-9 p.m. free

Kids

Pamela Ashkenaz. 3 p.m., $4, $6

Saggy Sundays Kids' series, Ashkenaz. 3 p.m. $4, $6

Rock & Pop

Folk Boys with Civil War Rust and The Echoes. 924 Gilman. 5 p.m.

Monsters of Rock Festival The Uptown. 8 p.m. $12, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Yo Gotti with Sam Gill, Jon Hash, Lil Ted, and 5t Mind Moves. The New Parish. 8 p.m. $17 $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Suhaila Salimpour's Belly Dance Nights featuring students from Suhaila Salimpour School of Dance. Club Lebanon's. 8 p.m. $7

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

SF Monsters Orchestra performing Celebration by the Bridge. Mission. Mission Dolores. 5 p.m. $15 $10

Blues, Folk & Country

Workshops rotating bands perform in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m.-midnight, $5

Terry Onthushiks Johnny Foley's and Bobby Dubs. 8 p.m. free

The Television Three Perfect. 4 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

McKeen Brunch on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $50 for brunch plus gratuity and tax.

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Brunch and Music Forward & rotating guests. 1300 on Fillmore. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $39 includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rock of The Bay Sunday Moves series. Boheme. 8 p.m. $20-$30 with Mash and show

Kurt Ribak Trio Chaya Ashkenaz, 6-9 p.m. free

Mary Stevens and Bharath Silbo Mao Bar, 6:30 p.m. $10

Music: Lalome & Friends featuring Andrew Speight, Sam Grobe-Martin, S Mark Coleman. Doggerel Saloon. 4:30-8:30 p.m. $5

Rock & Pop

S.R.K. with For Each Platinum and Attitude Adjustment. The Independent. 8 p.m. $20

The Hood And The Music with The Moondog, the Fillmore, 5 p.m. $35

Os Capitales with Bobby Brothers Band, Bufforn's Cenets, Monsters. Davey And The Precise, and The Emb. Hotel Lounge. 5:30 p.m. $10 $12

The Moves Mojave with The Saint Arms and States. Slim's. 7:30 p.m. $10

Spot 2010 with The Clerk. Bobby and The Verris. Sisters of the Hill. 8 p.m. $10

Viking Moves with Lalome and Music: III Cave. Hemlock Tavern. 8 p.m. $6

Soul Pop with Monsters and Hardcore Thursday Rock & Moves Music Box. 8 p.m.

MONDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Stu, Crary & Thunderation Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $20.50, $22.50

"Uptown Moves Holiday" live burlesque with Robba Hubba Music. The Uptown. 9 p.m. $8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Calvin Keys 57th Street Gallery. 7 p.m. $6, $10

Curtis Salgado Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $20

Rock & Pop

D'Jelly Moves with Mystic, Vino. 9 p.m. $8

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Irish Session Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill, 9 p.m. free

Theresa Andersson Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m. $14

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lo Ann and Lo Colonial, 7 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Alright with Magic Friend, Oh No Joe and The Moondog. Ashkenaz. Elbo Music. 8 p.m. $5

Crystal Fighters to Unspiced with Blackout Make Out. The Independent. 8 p.m. $13, $15

Music: Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

The Dude Spirit with Hacienda, Slim's, 9 p.m., $18

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THU 5/31 @ 5pm DJ Lebowitz plays Happy Hour Punk Piano

5/31 @ 9pm Stay Good w/ the Brothers Amor & Special Guests

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Music & Dance Community Center

WED 5/30 9:30 pm $10 GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL

THU 5/31 8:30 pm $15 COMMUNITY BENEFIT NIGHT "Basement & Beyond": Tribute to BOB DYLAN & THE BAND with Maria Muldaur, Country Joe McDonald, Pat Nevins, David Gans, Eric & Suzy Thompson, more! A Benefit for Ashkenaz!

FRI 6/1 9:00 pm $13 $10 Advance BRAZILIAN SAMBADA Afro-Samba-Funk dance revue! + BAHIA SOUL

SAT 6/2 9:30 pm $13 $10 Advance BERKELEY WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL AFTERPARTY JONI HAASTRUP & MONOMONO Pioneer of Afrofunk

SUN 6/3 3:00 pm $6 $4 kids KIDS SHOW ASHEBA Music for kids Caribbean style!

SUN 6/3 7:00 pm $10 FLAMENCO FLAMENCO OPEN STAGE featuring Alicia Zamora & flamenco Roberto Zamora, and special guests

TUE 6/5 8:30 pm $10 CAJUN/ZYDECO GATOR BEAT 8 pm Cajun Zydeco lesson

THU 6/7 9:00 pm $10 GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL

FRI 6/8 8:30 pm $18 $12 advance KLEZMER KABBALAH Direct from France + RED HOT CHACHKAS

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6/14 CALIFA 6/15 CARIBBEAN ALLSTARS

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Thurs, May 31 CASH'D OUT
Fri, June 1 BRENNA WHITAKER
Sat, June 2 C.J. CHENIER & THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND
Sun, June 3 PASIÓN HABANERA
Mon, June 4 JUBU feat. LEGALLY BLYND
Tues, June 5 STEVE SMITH & VITAL INFORMATION
Fri-Sat, June 8-9 CHRISTOPHER CROSS
Thur-Sun, June 14-17 STEPHANIE MILLS
JIMMY COBB'S SO WHAT BAND

oakland
Wed, May 30 GENERATION ESMERALDA feat. JIMMY GOINGS
Thurs, May 31 KAREN WILLIAMS
Fri-Sun, June 1-3 GERALD ALBRIGHT
Mon, June 4 CURTIS SALGADO
Tues, June 5 SOUL POWER
Wed-Thurs, June 6 & 7 DAN HICKS & THE HOT LICKS The Kollege of Musical Knowledge
Fri-Sun, June 8-10 RICK BRAUN
Tues, June 12 HELP THY NEIGHBOR
Nick Gravenites Steve Freund & more
Wed, June 13 TERRENCE BREWER'S CITIZEN RHYTHM
Thurs, June 14 CAROLYN WONDERLAND
Fri-Sun, June 15-17 PHAROAH SANDERS

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C&C

TUESDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

- **Country Brothers Gabe Night** with lessons. Vinnie's Bar & Grill. 7:30-11 p.m., free
- **Mesa Beat** with Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz. 8:30 p.m., $10
- **Shroud Holly** Pride's Restaurant. 7:30-9 p.m., free
- **Tuesday Night Live: Blues** This week: Cookie City Jug Band. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden. 7 p.m. $5 suggested

Classical & Opera

- **Concert: 1 pianos, Twins Ensemble** St. Mark's Episcopal Church. 8 p.m. $20, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

- **Eddie Pasternak Trio** with Bret Malbrel. Cafe Rouge. 6:30 p.m., free
- **Anecdotal Tuesdays** featuring [illegible] from the Berkeley music school. Jupiter, 8 p.m., free
- **Rod Dibble** dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley. 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

- **[illegible]** with Oxbow and [illegible]. Fox Theater. 8 p.m. $20
- **Sloop** with Oxbow and Kowloon Walled City. Fox Theater. 8 p.m. $25
- **The Garrett Something** with The Institution. [illegible]. 9 p.m. $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

- **The Mitt Combo** spoken word event with comedy and DJs. Dorsey's Locker, 7 p.m., free
- **Innerspace** Jupiter, 8 p.m., free
- **Soul Power** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $25

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

- **John Gabes Band** [illegible] & Night. 8 & 10 p.m. $25
- **[illegible]** Head Lion. 8 p.m. $7

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

- **Gerrelt Szekes** playing soft jazz piano. Top of the Mark. 6:30-11:30 p.m. $6-$10
- **Stompy Jones** [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

- **[illegible]** with Re-Volts, [illegible], the Elevator & The Brain Hotel, and [illegible] Big Nuts. The Knockout, 9 p.m., $7
- **Destroyer** with [illegible]. The Fillmore. 9 p.m. $15
- **[illegible] Umbrella** Park Chalet Brewery. 8:30 p.m., free
- **Joan Perez** Sam's, 8 p.m., $20
- **Melted Toys** with Melted Guide and 8th Grader. [illegible] Music Hall, 9 p.m., free
- **Ming & Ping** with Mike Doe and the Kids. Elbo Room 9 p.m., $8-$10
- **Bad Sister and the Grandmas** with Brothers Comatose. Rickshaw Stop, 7:30 p.m. $10
- **A Minor Bird** Café du Nord, 8 p.m., $12
- **Iron Mole** with East [illegible] and [illegible]. Knockout Tavern, 9 p.m., $8

WEDNESDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

- **[illegible] and the Hot Licks** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $20
- **Danny Click and the Jenevieve Orchestra** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m. $20.50-$22.50
- **Whiskey Brothers** old-time and bluegrass. Brothers Pub 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

- **Bob Kees & the Sound Wave** Rooster's Roadhouse 8-10 p.m., free
- **Jazz Theory Performance** [illegible]. 57th Street Gallery 6-8 p.m.
- **Live Jam** Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m. free
- **Rod Dibble** dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley 8 p.m., free
- **Will Wetland** [illegible] Campo di Bocce 6-9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

- **Melted Moon** with VJ [illegible]. [illegible], 8 p.m. $2
- **Dave Healey** piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop. [illegible] 8 p.m. free
- **[illegible]** with Against The Grain, Songs For Snakes, and Hooray For Everything. [illegible] Club 9 p.m. $5
- **KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Big Thief** weekly [illegible] showcase. The Uptown, 9:30 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

- **Caribbean Night** with Reggae Rock and DJ Mendrik, Dorsey's Locker, 7-11 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

- **Bluegrass Country Jam** w/ [illegible]. Plough and Stars. 9 p.m. free
- **[illegible] Invitational Pro Jam** [illegible] & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $15
- **Terry Saunders** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

- **Bee Marcato and the Gabes Combo** Top of the Mark. 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10
- **[illegible]** with [illegible] & Malbrel. Kitchen Amnesia, 7 p.m.
- **Melted** with the [illegible] Melted Session. Amnesia, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

- **Brothers Gerrell** with Young Hines and The Howling Brothers. The Independent. 8 p.m. $16, $20
- **Brain Tides** with [illegible]. The Regency Ballroom 8 p.m.
- **The Early [illegible]**, with [illegible] Wonder Years, The Swellers, and Young Statues. Slim's, 7:30 p.m., $10
- **The Gabes** with Lydia and The Arlists. The Fillmore. 8 p.m. $20
- **[illegible]** with The Deer Tracks and [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m. $10-$12
- **[illegible]** [illegible]. 9 p.m. $8-$10
- **Tyco Daze** with The One AM [illegible] and Slow Magic. [illegible]. 8 p.m. $10-$12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

- **Pleasure Cookies** Dance party with DJs Magic [illegible], [illegible] "Cal Nine" [illegible], and Kevin "The Wizard" Wong. [illegible] Room, 9:30 p.m. $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

- **Freddy Clarke and La Banda** Latin, flamenco, Mediterranean, & contemporary folk. Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12 ●

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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2181 Shattuck Ave Berkeley 510 843 8277
www.[illegible] • no cover

WED 5/30 NEUROHUMORS [illegible]

THURS 5/31 SELECTOR DJ FFLOOD [illegible]

FRI 6/1 KAT 010 [illegible]

GEORGE LACSON PROJECT [illegible]

SAT 6/2 MICHAEL COLEMAN QUARTET [illegible]

TUES 6/5 TUESDAYS JAZZIDENCY PARK ST TRIO [illegible]

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THE DENNIS BOVELL DUB BAND
ISRAEL VIBRATION • JOHNNY OSBOURNE
ROMAIN VIRGO • SISTER NANCY • IKONIK
PRINCE ALLA • AFROMASSIVE • [illegible]
AFROLICIOUS • GLOBESONIC SOUNDSYSTEM
ZION TRAIN • ROCKERS T • STONE LOVE
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Sat. June 9 • 9pm • $10 adv $12 dr LPSC & Raw G present
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New Orleans music legends and stars of the hit HBO series Treme return for another rollicking night, featuring Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Dr. John with guest Jon Cleary. Plus, the Soul Rebels, Dumpstaphunk's Ivan Neville, Leo Nocentelli of The Meters and Mardi Gras Indian Big Chief Monk Boudreaux.

6/9
SOLITARY SAVANT
GONZALO RUBALCABA
Herbst Theatre

6/10
DESERT BLUES
TINARIWEN
Herbst Theatre

6/16
TONY [illegible] TRIBUTE
SPECTRUM ROAD
WITH JACK BRUCE, VERNON REID, JOHN MEDESKI & CINDY BLACKMAN
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

6/17
THE GOOD FEELING
CHRISTIAN McBRIDE BIG BAND
Herbst Theatre

6/22
BRAZILIAN BEAUTY
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THU 5/31
THE STRIPMINERS
GRAM RABBIT
[illegible]

FRI 6/01
POOR MOON
[illegible]

SAT 6/02
INDIGENOUS
[illegible]

FRI & SAT 6/8 & 6/9
THE NEW ORLEANS SUSPECTS
[illegible]
AND THE NEW AMBASSADORS

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UPCOMING SHOWS

THURSDAY 5/31
THE REVELATIONS FEAT. TRE WILLIAMS
[illegible]

FRIDAY 6/01
HUNX & HIS PUNX
[illegible]

SATURDAY 6/02
HOME BASS
[illegible]

SUNDAY 6/03
YO GOTTI

WEDNESDAY 6/06
SEAN PATTON
[illegible]

FRIDAY 6/08
GEORGIA ANNE MULDROW WITH DUDLEY PERKINS
[illegible]

THURSDAY 6/21
CHICO TRUJILLO

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THE ROCK STEADY

FRI 6/08
EVERLASTING BASS
[illegible]

FRI 6/15
ALL OF THE ABOVE
[illegible]

SAT 6/16
SPREAD
[illegible]

[illegible]

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DJ & DANCE

EAST BAY

THURSDAY 31

Academy Night w/ [illegible] and VJ Joe S. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $3, spinning free w/ valid ID

Club Fever w/ Sound Bath Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free

Dame Club w/ DJs Rod Brown & Club Fox, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

Mercado Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free

DJ Add1 spinning eclectic [illegible] lounge, 9 p.m., free

DJ Dame The Layover, 9 p.m., free

DJ Fluod Layover, 8 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Trick spinning lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Elixir w/ resident DJ Manani [illegible] weekly guest DJs, Lago, 9 p.m., $5

International Night Lounge spinning DJ [illegible] spinning Forró, French pop, Italian film soundtracks, Latin American garage, jazz lounge, & [illegible], Forbidden Island, 9 p.m., free

Jukebox The Den, 8 p.m., free

Jingle Boogie w/ DJs Polish, Kool Kyle, [illegible] Joe, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Dance Night w/ DJ Eddie T, plus dance lessons, Yoshi's Bar & Grill, 9 p.m., $10

Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ Mr. Jacobe spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15

Yoruba Dance Sessions spinning DJs Carlos Mena [illegible] Cecil, Sarah and Bar, 8 p.m., free

FRIDAY 1

Inn Joe w/ [illegible] Rome and his Friends spinning [illegible] and slow jams, The Mixture Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

spinning w/ **DJ Night** DJs [illegible] spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5

Boogie, Dance & Groovin' DJ Habit & special guests spinning fresh heavy funk and electro, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ Goodie The Layover, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ **DJ [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist** The Layover, 10 p.m.

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $5

Friday Nite Latin w/ DJ Super K, Paxos, 10 p.m., $5

The Icon Lift [illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Friday Rome w/ DJ Golden Gram spinning punk, rock, indie, & [illegible] rock, The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Felipe spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop, & house, Dance and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $6-$15

Weekend weekly in-house DJ music, Amasia music, 7:30 p.m., free

Old-School hip-hop and funk, Radio, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B, World Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free [illegible] 11:30 p.m.

Retro-lutions Daniel Israel Brown 80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Safety Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $5

Testify w/ DJ [illegible] Prayers spinning northern soul, Motown, 60s, [illegible], punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll, Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free

Vybz Ital w/ [illegible] Tobs, Lavase & Havess spinning [illegible] reggae, dancehall, & soul, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., $8

World Beat Fridays DJ Tropic spins [illegible] sounds, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, [illegible], Arabic music, & more, Cango Lounge, 10 p.m.,

SATURDAY 2

All Productions & [illegible] spinning R&B & [illegible], 10 p.m., free

Club Mission! [illegible] from B Soul Prefers spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, Mancell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $20

Club Wanted w/ DJ [illegible] and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, Dance and Bar, 9 p.m., $8 before [illegible] p.m.

Boogie, Dance & Groovin' DJ Habit & special guests spinning fresh heavy funk and electro, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

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DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

Home [illegible] w/ Kammandos, The Human Expression, [illegible], [illegible], New Parish, 8 p.m., $12-$15

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ will, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5

La Vida Loca urban cowboy night w/ free spinning salsa, [illegible] & banda, plus hot go-go vaqueras, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

Magic Milk Lizard DJ Dove & [illegible] fever-surfing extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the Stooges to Michael Jackson, Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Reggae Night Cango Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Screens Saturdays [illegible] hip-hop, rare soul & world flavors, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after

spinning [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10, $5 students

Warm-Up w/ DJ Mark Cal spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

SUNDAY 3

DJ Beauty Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

King of Kings DJ Smoke-One and guests spin [illegible] funkadelic bass & lovers' rock, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10

Blaze w/ DJ [illegible] spinning funk, soul, & [illegible], Shower Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Polyphonic! DJs [illegible] and [illegible] host a weekly multi-genre exploration of musical movement, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Post-Antique Fair Retro Lounge spinning DJ Fig spinning rock 'n' roll and more, Forbidden Island, 3 p.m., free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community dance [illegible] optional. SoulSanctuaryDance.com. Ashkenaz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., [illegible]

Uncle Fun's Ska Sundays DJs spin [illegible] rocksteady & [illegible] The Night Tony Club, 7 p.m., free

MONDAY 4

Memory Night Soul featuring DJs [illegible], [illegible], The New Parish, 10 p.m., $5

Three-Day Dancehall DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B & [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Underground Lounge psycho, 60s & garage music, Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Lounge [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 5

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop, Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

DJ [illegible] spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Escape college night featuring DJ Escape & DJ Kruz, Club 21, 9 p.m., free

Joe Quinn Spins Vinyl [illegible] Volante, 8 p.m., free

Soul Fyah DJs Juan & Serg spinning [illegible] & world beats, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Stay Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning bass, punk, hardcore, & metal, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 6

GotFunk [illegible], free

Hump Day w/ [illegible] Missouri at [illegible], The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

The Jet Set w/ DJ [illegible] and Lounge guests, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

Shoobie Sandwich w/ DJ Foo Dog, The Layover, 9 p.m., free

Dance Night featuring Last Angry Manny spinning metal vinyl, and more, Merchant's Saloon, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Off open-mic poetry, [illegible] by DJ [illegible], Loft Lounge, 8-10 p.m.

Over & Done featuring DJ [illegible], Forbidden Island, 8 p.m., free

Permission Lash cowboy night w/ [illegible] Violets, [illegible] and Bar, 7 p.m., $6-$15

[illegible] Punk, indie, new wave, & [illegible] rock w/ [illegible], Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ [illegible], 10 p.m., free ■

PICKS

Queendom

At this point, "the four elements" are so ingrained in hip-hop's definition of itself that they're often taught in scholarly classes. Consumers who grew up in an era dominated by Young Money and Maybach Music might not remember a time when the genre wasn't wholeheartedly focused on consumerism, but it actually wasn't that long ago that emcees were name-checking their DJs instead of their luxury cars. Local emcee and spoken-word poet Aima the Dreamer certainly remembers those halcyon days, and she'd argue that the genre still has artistic pillars — moreover it has room for femininity. Aima and a host of other emcees will celebrate both at the fifth iteration of Queendom: *Fly Ladies Keepin' the Four Elements of Hip-Hop*. It will feature Detroit emcee Invincible, The Mamas, DJs Zita and Lady Ryan, dancing by SF Soulstars and Bay Area Steppers, and artwork by Agana and Wanzagirle. The event happens Saturday, June 2, at La Peña Cultural Center (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). 9 p.m., $10-$12. LaPena.org — *Rachel Swan*

AQUARIAN AGE

URANUS/PLUTO SQUARE: PART TWO

For the week of May 30-June 5, 2012

By Raffee Finn

The planets continue to speak boldly and as their messages sweep across the skies, daily life reverberates with increasing intensity. No one is exempt from this quickening, even those among us who are making great strides toward joy — their joyousness will only increase. The current celestial influences are amplifying all areas of human endeavor, and as we attempt to adjust to this period of change, emotions are sure to run high. Don't be surprised if you or those near to you are raw one moment and defended the next. And don't be startled if you find yourself withdrawing from situations you would normally embrace — or embracing situations you might otherwise avoid. Give yourself permission to be authentic, and let that authenticity be your guide.

Several interactions contribute to this increased level of intensity. We are still in the throes of Venus Retrograde, and as the goddess of love continues to revisit her recent past, so do we. Don't despair if you're dwelling on memories of springs past; be willing to recognize your part in it, and then use these reflections to grow. Venus' domain includes relationships of every conceivable denomination, from lovers to friends to cousins to neighbors to pen pals to pets, so don't limit yourself to amorous interactions.

On June 6, a rare astronomical event occurs — the transit of Venus — during which an actual Venus/Sun conjunction can be seen. It won't happen again for another 105 years. (This particular event happens in pairs: the last one was on June 8, 2004.) I'm not certain how to interpret this occurrence through an astrological perspective, but it makes sense to see it as a further illumination of Venus' current position in Gemini, the Sign of communication. Ultimately, Gemini is about intimacy; twins are its symbol, and it is through day-to-day exchanges in our local environment that we learn to share our feelings and speak from the heart. When we are children, that means sharing with our family, and as we grow, our expanding environment includes friends, classmates, neighbors, and co-workers.

On June 4, a lunar eclipse occurs nearly one degree opposite the transit of Venus at fourteen degrees Sagittarius. Lunar eclipses put the focus on practical matters, which means we can expect a lot of shared data (translation: shared feelings). Interestingly, during this eclipse, Mercury, the ruler of Gemini, occupies the degree at which Venus began her retrograde. Be clear and direct as you engage with others, and remember to listen just as carefully.

At an even deeper level of activity, we're at the start of a nearly three-year sequence of interactions between Uranus and Pluto, the two most powerful astral agents of change, and their combined light illuminates a profound cycle of individual and collective transformation. There are no shortcuts through this inexorable portal of change, a condition that could make many of us anxious — even if what's happening is positive and expansive. Try to quell that anxiety by remembering that the ultimate creative power is always in the present moment.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Choose your words carefully; what you say has an almost immediate effect. Even your sarcastic remarks will be examined for clues to a deeper hidden meaning.

TAURUS You think it is a financial issue, but it's really about how you value yourself. Take a moment to assess your most worthy attributes, and then move into the next phase on the basis of that assessment.

GEMINI It's all about you, and there is every reason to make the most of it. Put all self-consciousness aside and forget what anyone thinks. This is your cosmic moment: share your abiding beauty.

CANCER Pay attention to your dreams — sleeping and waking. They are opening a wide window to your unconscious, a window that will allow you to explore your imagination and relish in its fullness.

LEO Allow your innate generosity to help you to identify where your gifts can be of greatest use to your community. You don't have to start a movement, but if you do, make sure it is in keeping with your true values.

VIRGO You're in a culmination phase where recent experiences are coalescing into a new level of responsibility and recognition. Stay focused on your goals and you'll manage the spotlight with ease.

LIBRA Venus places the focus on your spiritual quest, and it doesn't matter whether you're searching externally, through travel, or internally, through contemplation. You'll know your truth when you experience it.

SCORPIO Read Taurus above, but add this: If you value yourself on the basis of how others see you, you'll never arrive at an accurate assessment of your own worth.

SAGITTARIUS You are definitely in a relationship intensive, and that means all your relations, from the goldfish to the person who delivers the mail. Watch your responses and you'll gain insight into who makes you happiest.

CAPRICORN Whether it's a health- or work-related issue, you are certainly looking at your notion of service. Remember: help given with a grudge helps no one and can be especially harmful to you.

AQUARIUS When we're in the midst of a creative process, we're not watching, we're participating, which is why the creative moment always feels vulnerable. Continue to follow your muse, and don't worry about being exposed.

PISCES While "home is where the heart is" is a cliché, like all clichés it contains a gold nugget of truth. Make finding the home of your heart a priority, and that quest will have exponential and lasting benefits. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquarianAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn.

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Individual Business Name Statement
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5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13/2012

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5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30/2012

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File # [illegible]

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5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/2012

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[illegible]

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File # 463844

[illegible]

5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: [illegible]

[illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: [illegible]

[illegible]

5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6/2012

Individual Business Name Statement
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Judge of the Superior Court
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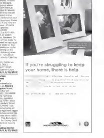
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SAVAGE LOVE

THE GIGOLO MYTH

Plus unfulfilling cunnilingus.

By Dan Savage

I'm a straight male from Southern California and I really want to be a straight male escort. The problem is the industry is shrouded with deceptive "agencies" that take advantage of the situation. Also, it's not like there's a Male Escort 101 course that I can take to learn how to avoid these traps. I don't know if you can help, but I really want to get into this industry, hopefully through a reputable agency. Do you have any advice, can you put me in touch with any male escorts (preferably straight ones) so I can pick their brains, and do you know of a reputable agency in my area?

Seeking The Upright Deal

"There is no gigolo industry," says Dominick, the former escort who writes Ask Dominick, an advice column for male escorts and male escort wannabes at Rentboy.com, a gay escort listings site. While Dominick's column focuses on issues that gay escorts confront, it's the "Male Escort 101" course you've been looking for.

"What STUD is seeking is a fantasy — one that has been fueled by cultural products like *American Gigolo* and HBO's *Hung*," says Dominick. There are no reputable agencies in Southern California — or anywhere else — that book male escorts to see female clients, just as there are no websites like Rentboy.com for straight male escorts. "The fact of the matter is, almost all clients for escorts are male — whether they're looking for male, female, or transgender escorts." And no demand from female clients means no escort agencies and no Rentboy.com-style websites — at least no legit ones — for straight male escorts.

"Because there are many, more men clamoring to be gigolos than there is actual demand for gigolos," adds Dominick, "shadowy scam agencies come and go, guaranteeing bookings with female clients to gullible young bucks — in exchange for monthly listing fees. That said, if there are any legitimate agencies out there, they are likely to be in New York or Los Angeles. A quick Google search produced two agencies in LA. One had dozens of females and just two men, the other had a stable of six straight male escorts charging posted rates of $200 to $300 per hour."

Another option: listing yourself as a "sexual healer" at a new-age site like Sacrederos.com. "There are lots male and female sexual healers, for male and female clients, for such services as coaching, tantric awakening, and sensual massage. If this is a direction you are thinking about, have at it," says Dominick. "Otherwise, my advice to you is to pursue a profession with the potential to bring you into contact with a wealthy female clientele — business consultant, art handler — and be exceptionally good and loving to all the women in your life."

I'm a 22-year-old female and I lost my virginity in September 2011, but I had experienced everything else before that. My question is about when a guy goes down on me. How come I can never fully enjoy it? How come I find it hard to enjoy any aspect of it? Is the problem that I've never experienced oral with someone who knows what he's doing? Or is it my own mental block? What I mean by "mental block" is this: I personally think it's gross and I can't imagine why a guy would want to do that to me. So the entire time he's down there, I'm stressing out about whether he really likes it. I try to focus on relaxing and blocking those thoughts out, but in the end I always end up pulling his head back up, since I don't see myself ever experiencing an orgasm during it and, frankly, I get bored.

Is it my mental block that's stopping me from enjoying oral? Or am I just having bad luck with guys in that area?

Erotic Anxiety Time

The only way to determine what exactly your problem is — your pussy-paralyzing insecurities? Their pussy-disabling ineptitude? — is to work on conquering your insecurities while at the same time allowing the guy(s) you're seeing to go down on you once in a while. If you get over your insecurities about your genitals, and then oral — even inept oral — is suddenly awesome, well, then the problem was your insecurities. If you don't get over your insecurities but find yourself coming like crazy with a new boy between your legs, well, then they — all the other boys who ever ate your pussy — were the problem.

And it's fine for you to think eating pussy is gross — you're a straight girl after all and you're not attracted to women. But guys who dig women dig pussy and you don't have to like the idea to enjoy having yours eaten.

I am a 26-year-old straight girl and a virgin. I could delve into the reasons why (shy, late bloomer, average-looking, conservative family), but I will spare you and cut to the chase. I really, really want to lose my virginity. It's driving me crazy! All I want is a safe, anonymous one-time thing so I can move on, and I'm not outgoing/flirtatious/pretty enough to meet men at bars. My question: Straight male escorts — do they exist? How would I find one? Some people were talking about escorts as an option in a recent column, and being with someone understanding, experienced, and professional sounds like exactly what I'm looking for. Honestly, I've thought about this for a while. I don't think people who develop normally can really understand the sort of desperation I feel.

Very Concerned About Retarded Development

Wannabe straight male escorts exist, VCARD, as STUD's letter proves. But there aren't enough straight female wannabe clients out there to support a straight-female-specific website or agency for straight male escorts, as Dominick's response to STUD proves. However, a lot of the male escorts on gay-specific escort websites are bisexual, some are even highly heteroflexible gay-for-pay straight guys. Spend some time ducking around on a gay escort site, VCARD, and it won't be long before you run across an ad posted by a male escort who identifies as bi. The guy could be lying — some gay escorts will claim to be straight or bi to attract gay male clients who get off on sleeping with straight guys — so you may not hear back from the first bi or straight escort you send an email to. But keep looking, email any guy who strikes your fancy, and be up front about who you are and what you're looking for. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage

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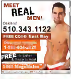
[illegible] mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, this information can be obtained from one of the following two companies: LPS Agency Sales & Posting at (714) 730-2727 or visit the Internet Web site www.lpsasap.com (Registration required to search for sale information) or Priority Posting & Publishing at (714) 573-1965 or visit the Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com (Click on the link for "Advanced Search" to search for sale information), using the Trustee Sale No. shown above. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. A-4242204 05/23/2012, 05/30/2012, 06/06/2012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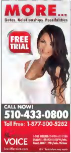
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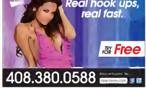
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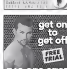

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On 6/6/2012 at 12:00 PM, at the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 7/20/2005 as Instrument No. 2005[illegible] of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by TERRY LINDSEY, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, A FEDERAL ASSOCIATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 5935 HORTON STREET #[illegible] EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $[illegible] (Estimated) provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. DATE: 5/10/2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA[illegible] 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 [illegible], Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.priorityposting.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-573-1965 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call telephone number for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case CA[illegible]-11 1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. P[illegible] 5/16, 5/23, 05/30/2012

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